Vol.23

ROKUDA NOBORU

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VOL.23

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THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS

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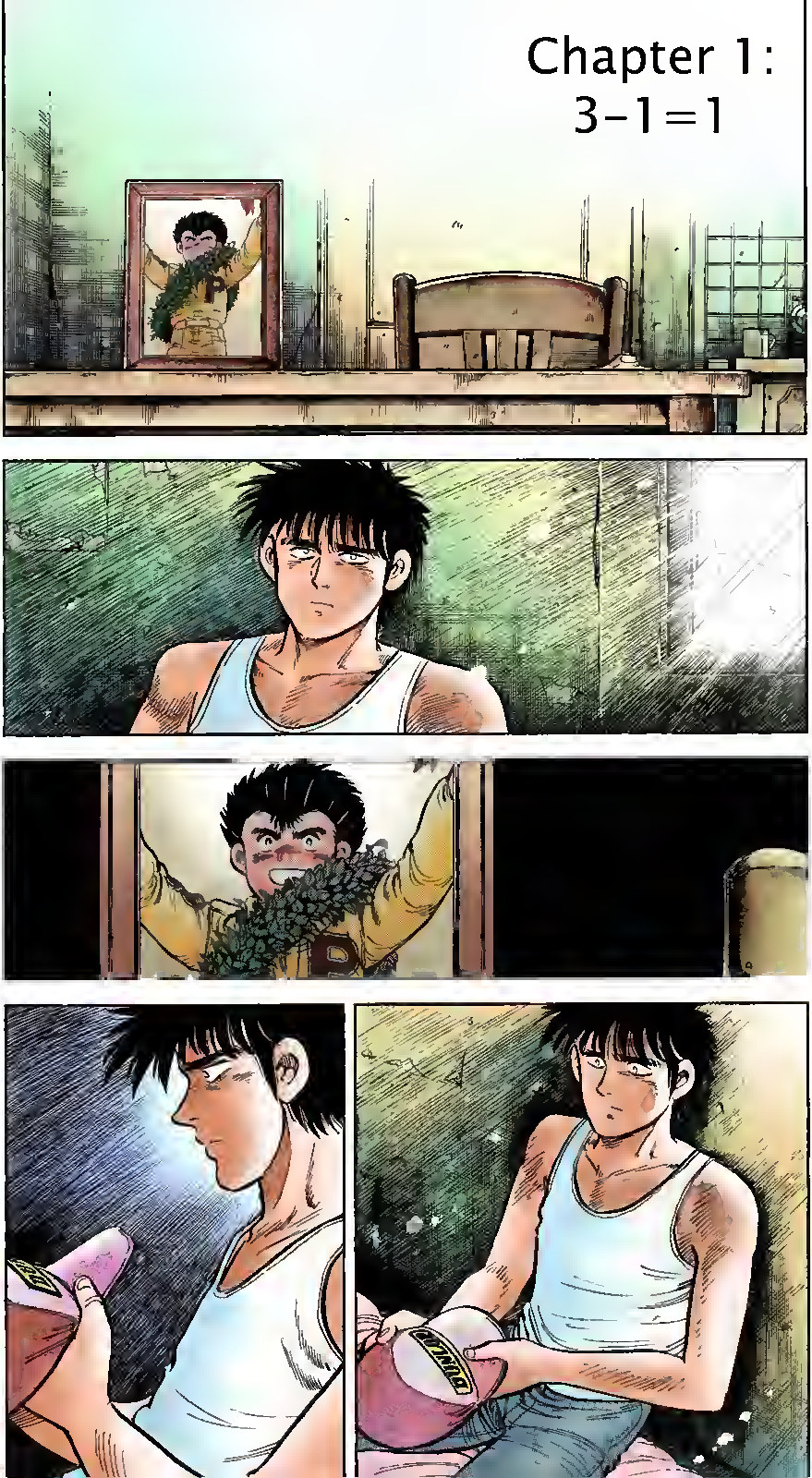
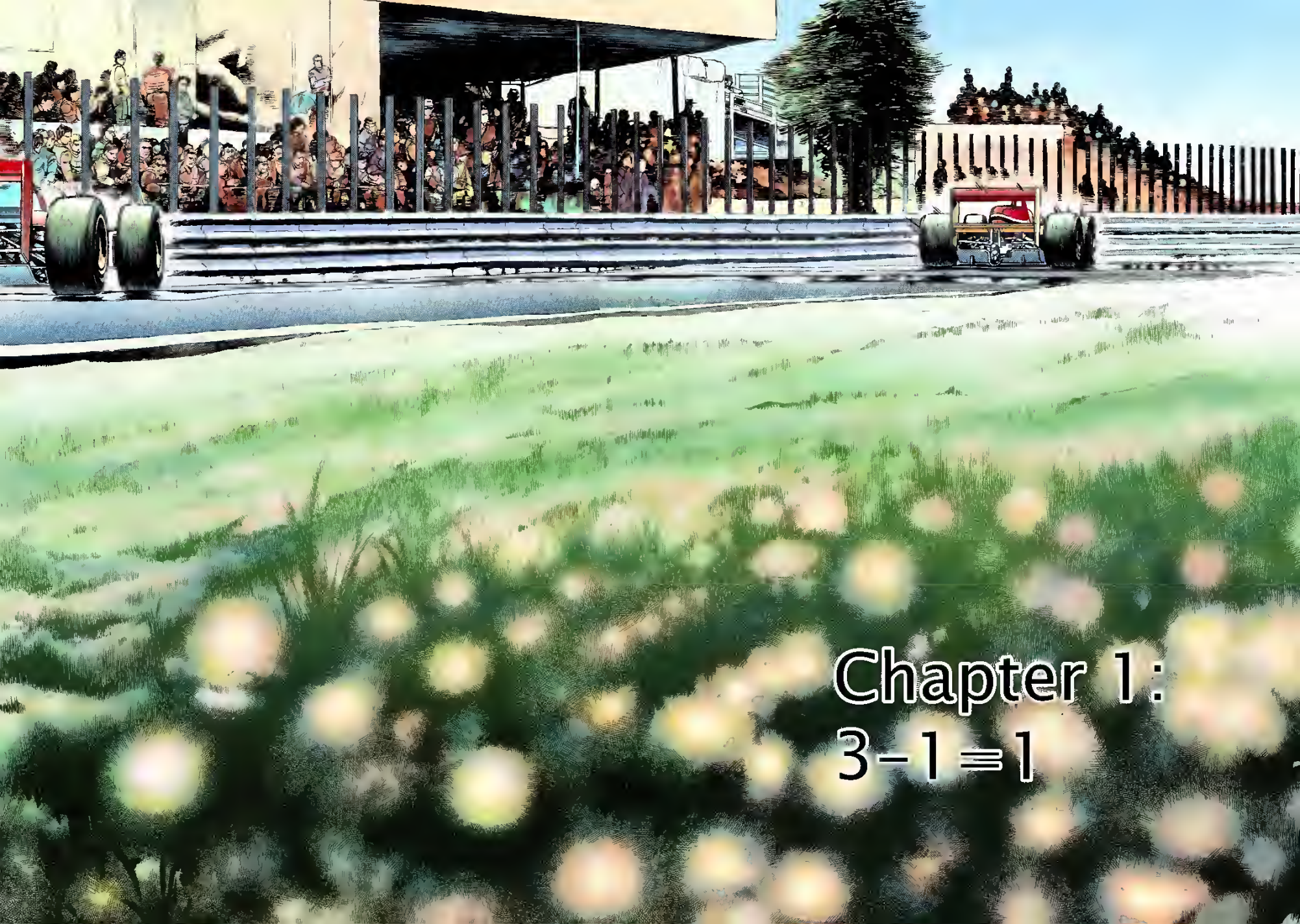

Chapter 1:
3-1=1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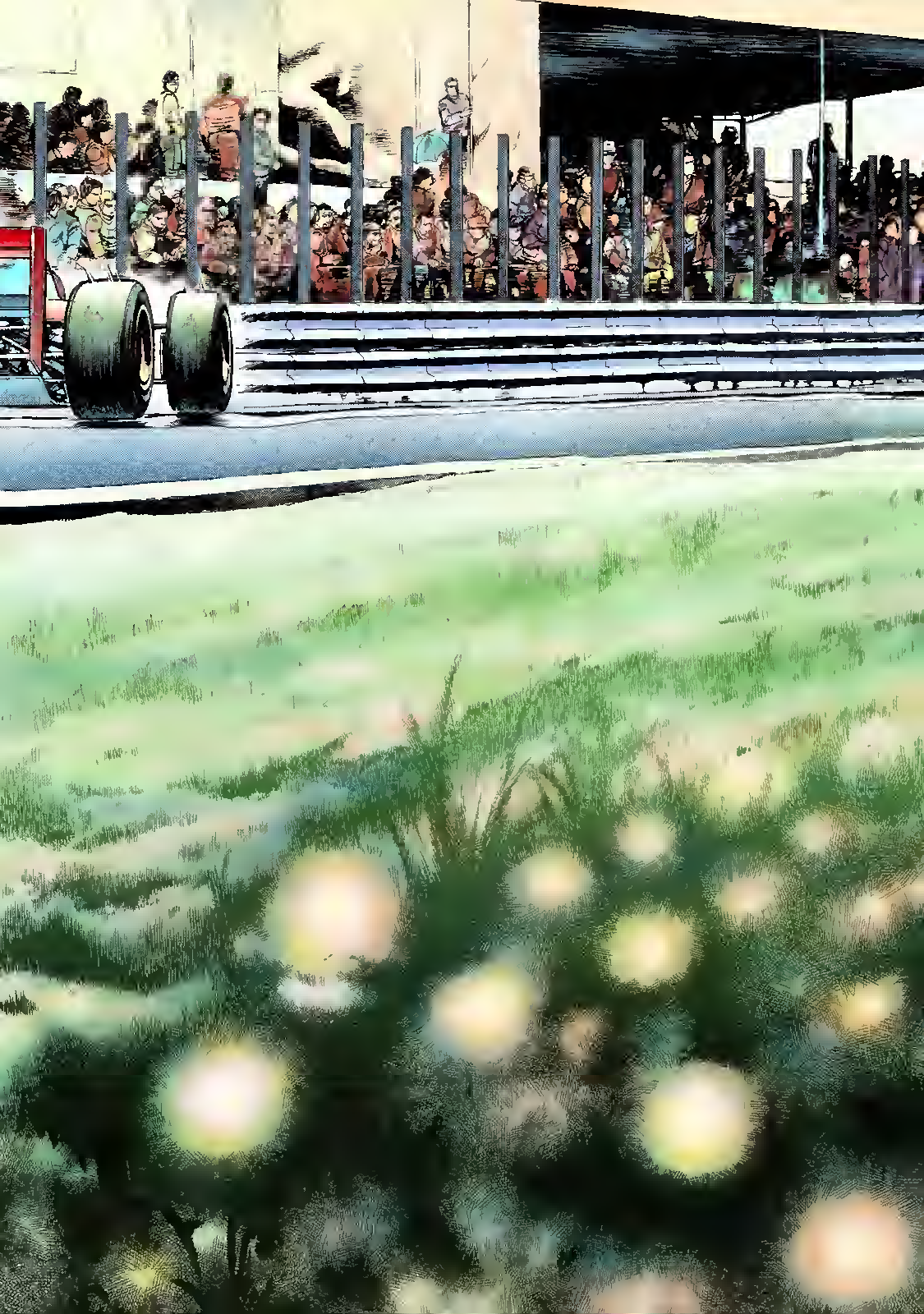
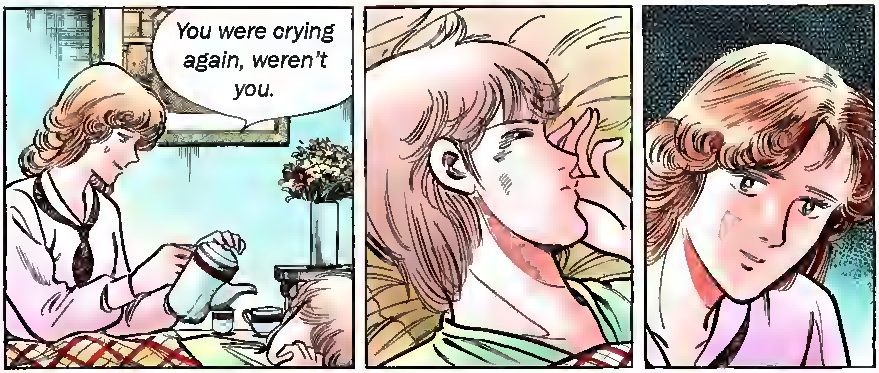
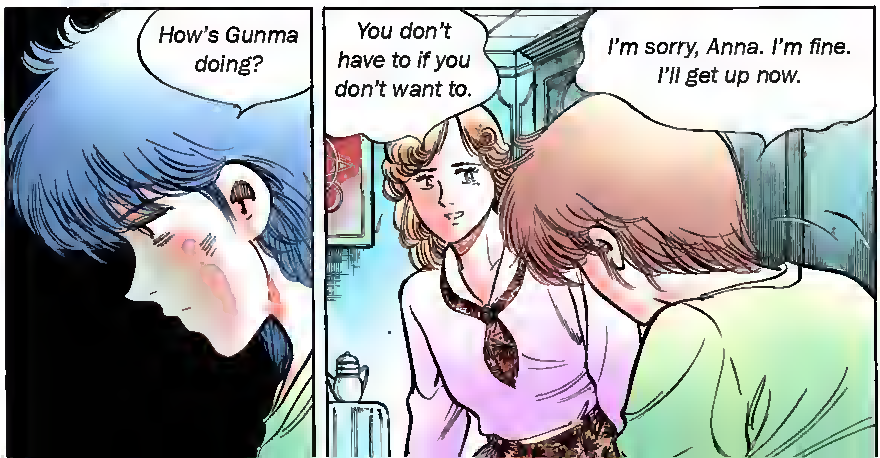
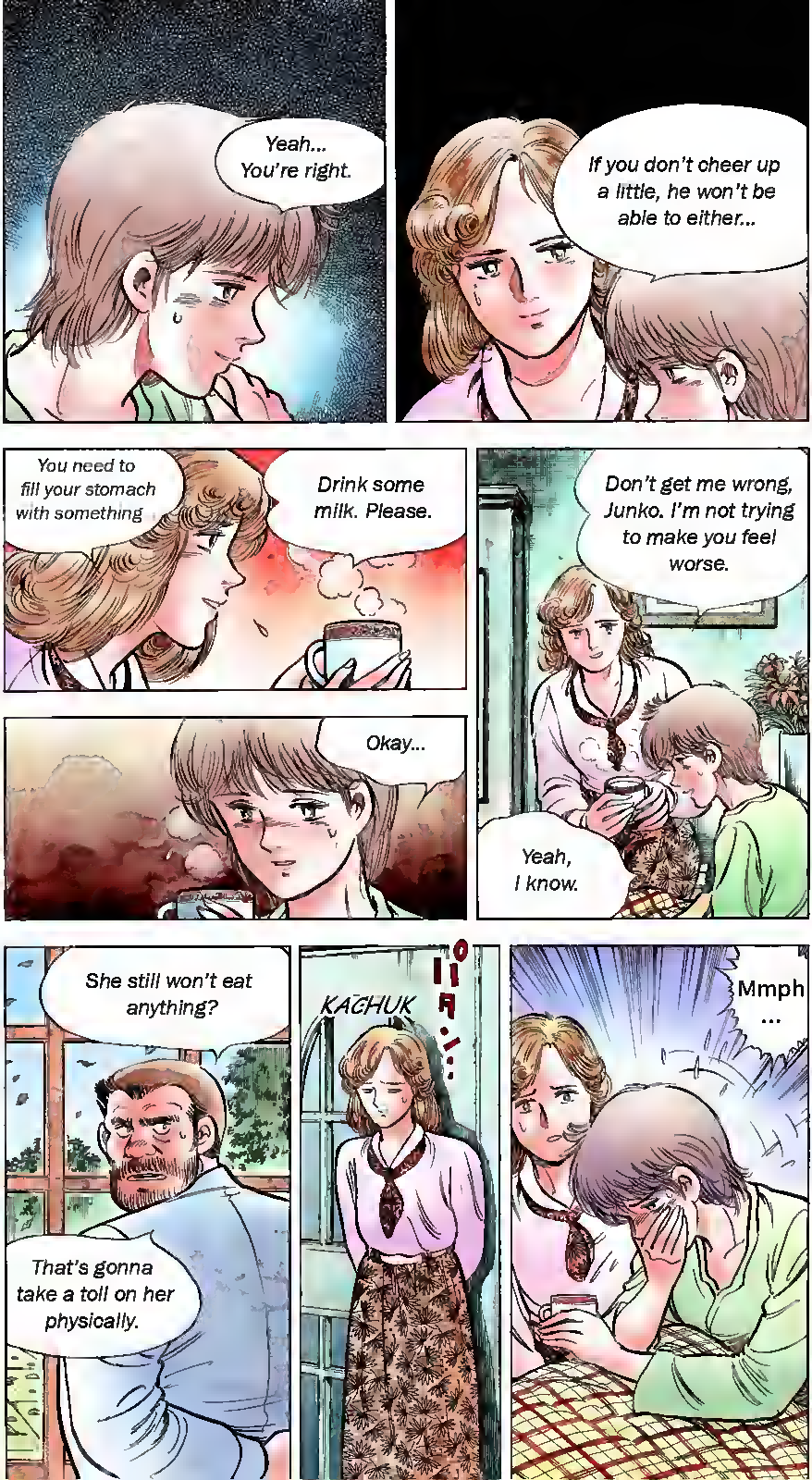


The poor kid...
CLICK
I'll be there as soon as I can.
I just can't believe it. I'm so sorry.
DUNLOP
RACING SUPPLY
Did something happen over in England?
How could this happen?
It's hell over there, Yasu...
...
SHING
It's a living hell...
Huh?

...


You were crying again, weren't you.

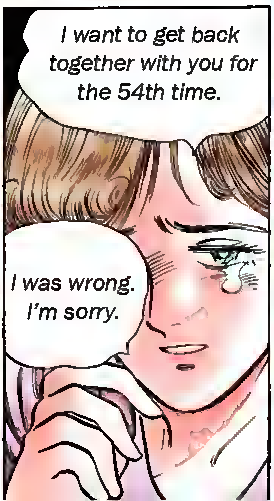

How's Gunma doing?
You don't have to if you don't want to.
I'm sorry, Anna. I'm fine. I'll get up now.

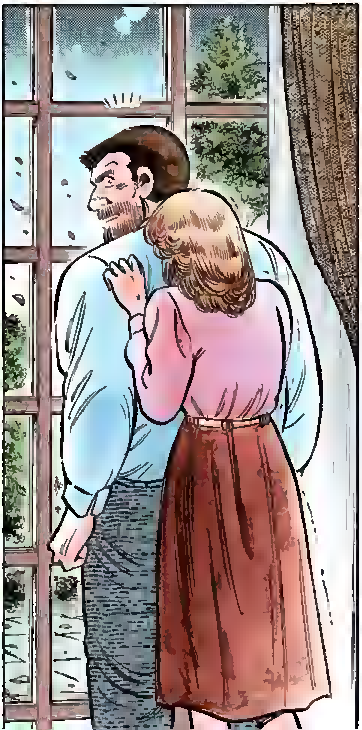

Yeah... You're right.
If you don't cheer up a little, he won't be able to either...
You need to fill your stomach with something
Drink some milk. Please.
Okay...
Don't get me wrong, Junko. I'm not trying to make you feel worse.
Yeah, I know.
She still won't eat anything?
That's gonna take a toll on her physically.
KACHUK
Mmph ...

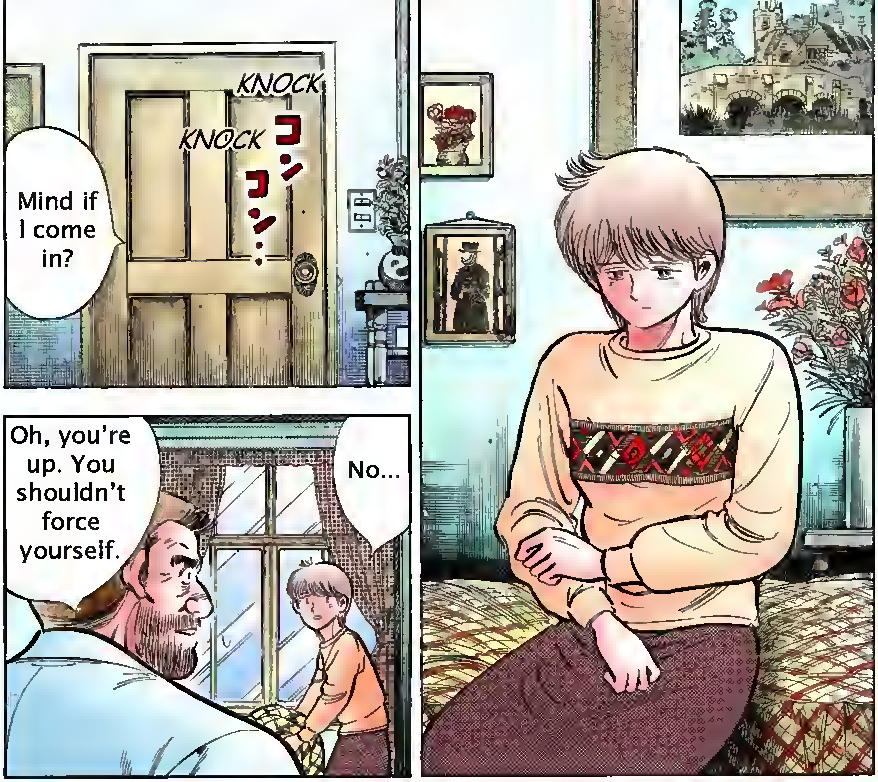
I finally got a hold of Kurol. He'll be back as soon as he can.
He's bringing all their friends from Japan with him.
I'm sure seeing some of their old friends would cheer Junko and Gunma up...

What's wrong, Anna?

Anna...

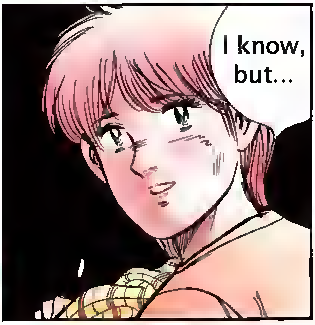

I want to get back together with you for the 54th time.
I was wrong. I'm sorry.



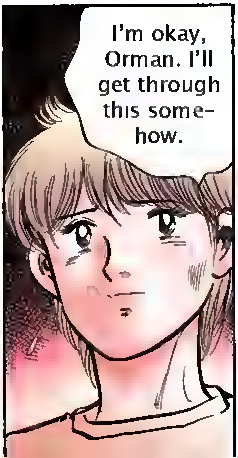

KNOCK
KNOCK
コン
コン!
Mind if I come in?

Oh, you're up. You shouldn't force yourself.
No...

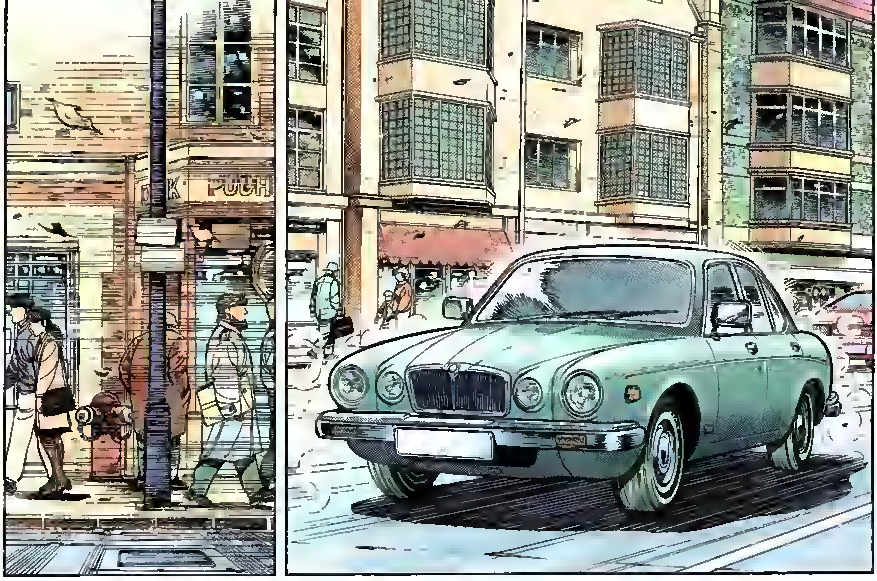
But sorrow and grief are weak.
Sorrow and grief are just a part of life. If we could avoid it, we all would. This is true, even for people with evil intentions.

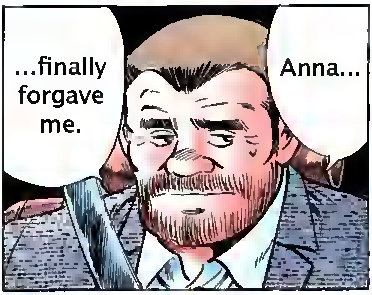

I know, but...

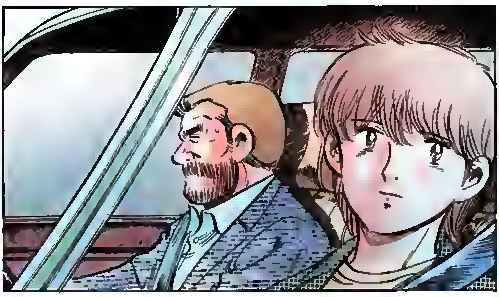
...

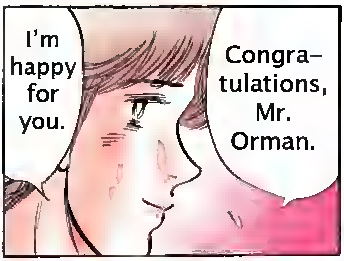

I'm okay, Orman. I'll get through this somehow.

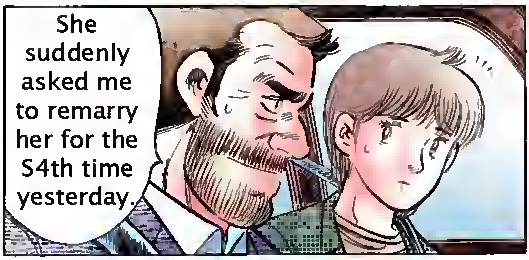
But that takes time. You should be resting.
They're weak in the sense that by no means will they remain forever. At some point, they vanish.


PUGH

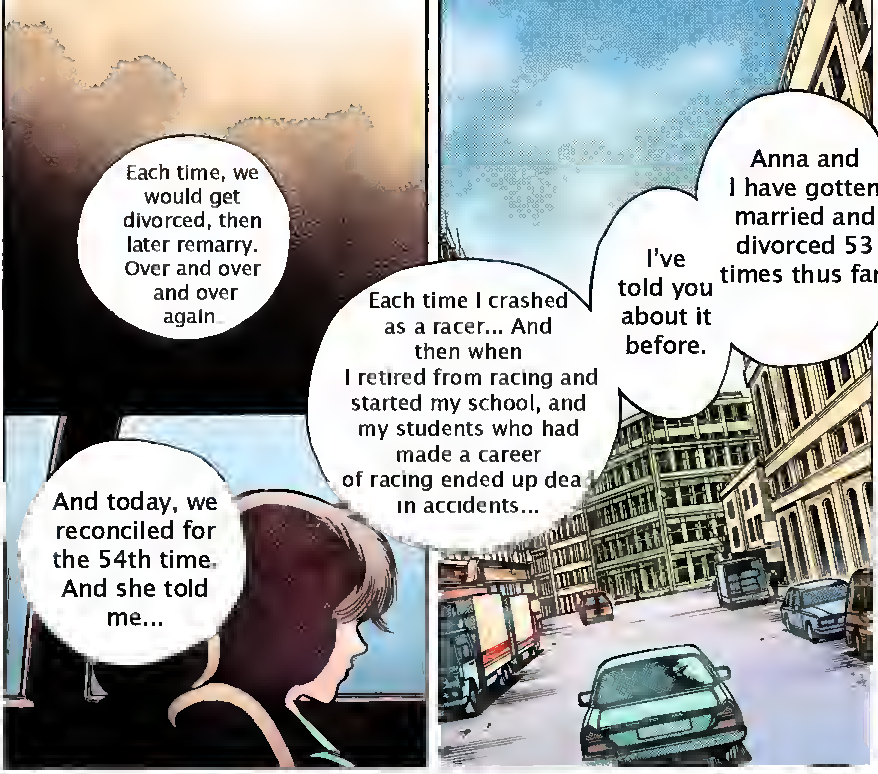

...finally forgave me.
Anna...



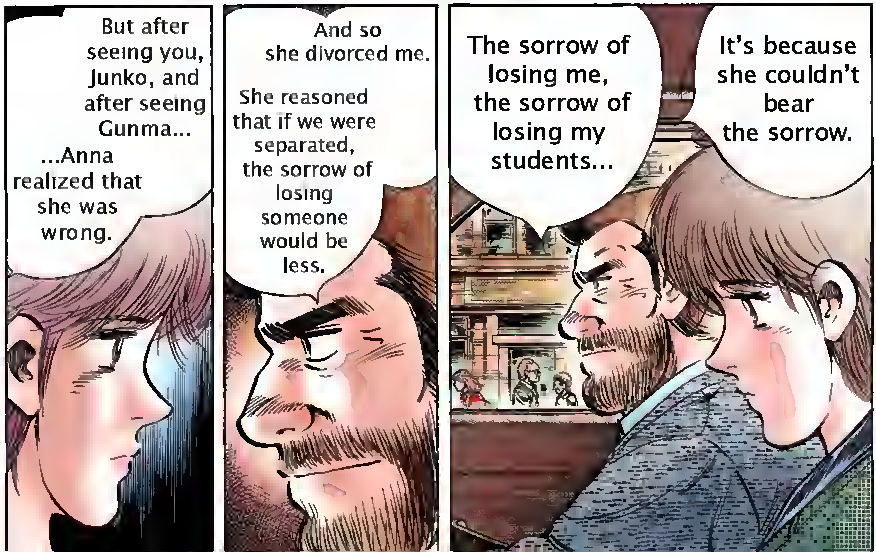

I'm happy for you.
Congra-tulations, Mr. Orman.

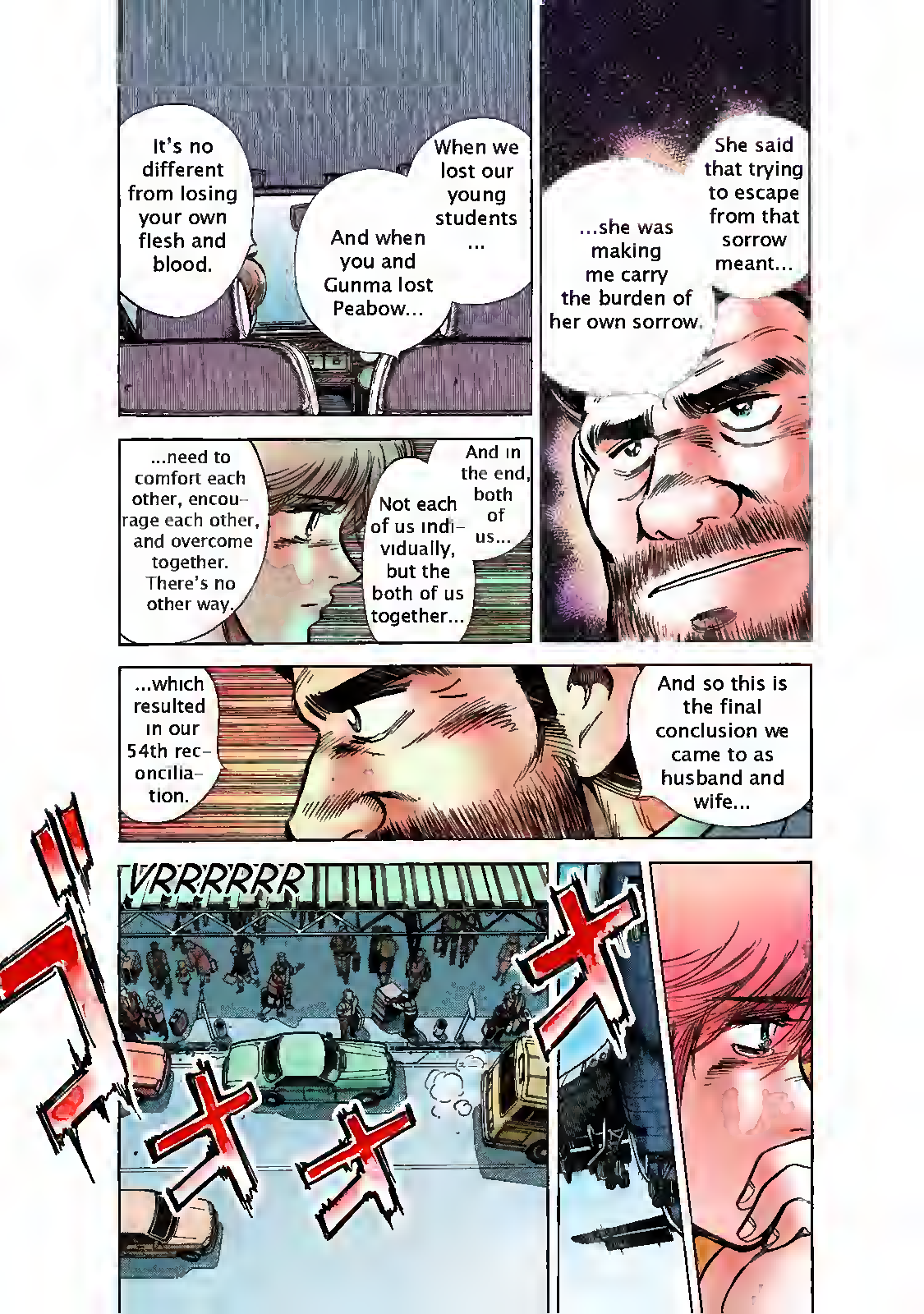

She suddenly asked me to remarry her for the 54th time yesterday.

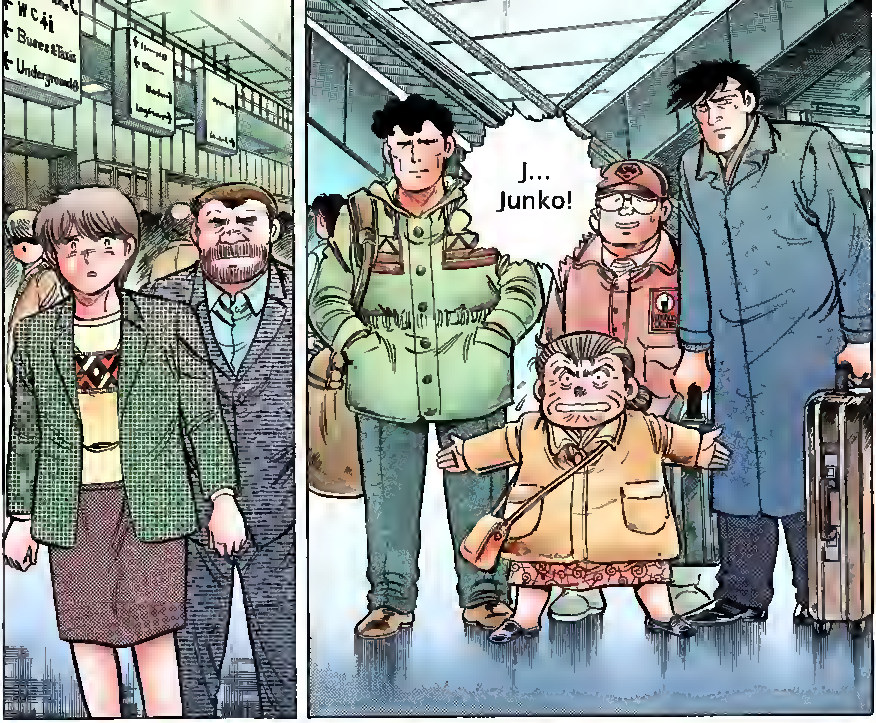
Mind if I tell you about it? I'm not expecting you to respond.
But I'd like you to listen.
Forgive me for talking about this while you're grieving.

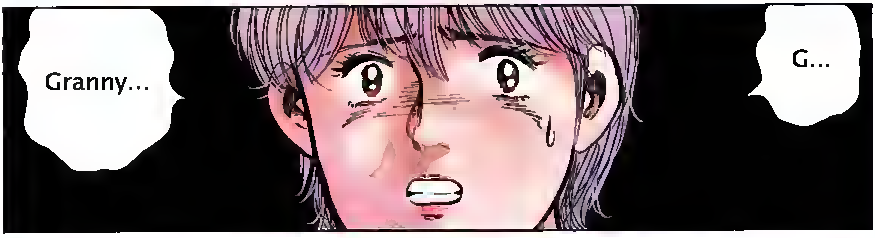

Each time, we would get divorced, then later remarry. Over and over and over again...
Each time I crashed as a racer... And then when I retired from racing and started my school, and my students who had made a career of racing ended up dea in accidents...
I've told you about it before.
Anna and I have gotten married and divorced 53 times thus far.
And today, we reconciled for the 54th time. And she told me...

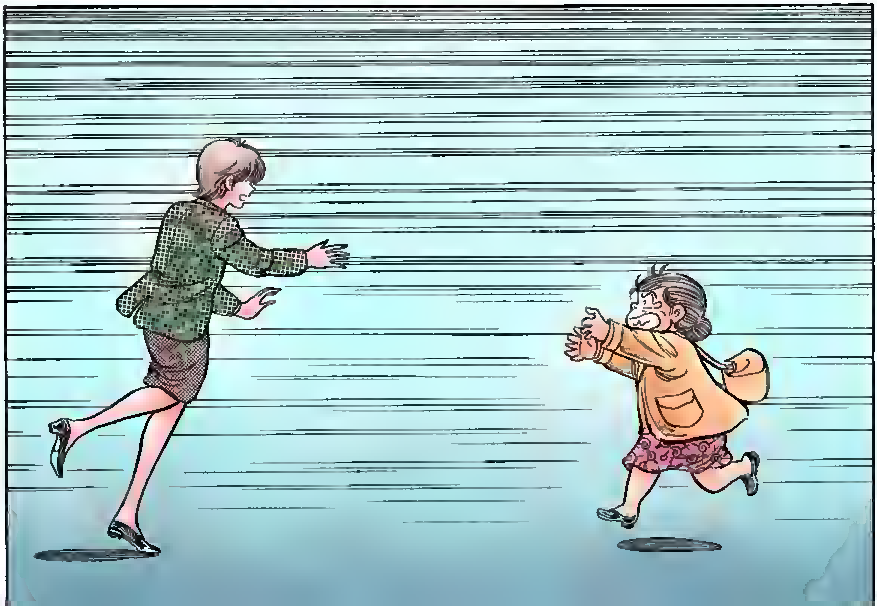
She's loved me all along, but she had no love for racing.
That she would never divorce me again, no matter what.
...that this time, it would be forever.

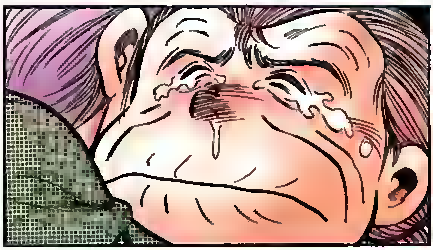

But after seeing you, Junko, and after seeing Gunma... ...Anna realized that she was wrong.
And so she divorced me. She reasoned that if we were separated, the sorrow of losing someone would be less.
The sorrow of losing me, the sorrow of losing my students...
It's because she couldn't bear the sorrow.

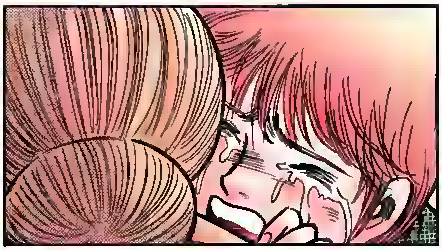

It's no different from losing your own flesh and blood.
When we lost our young students ...
And when you and Gunma lost Peabow...
She said that trying to escape from that sorrow meant...
...she was making me carry the burden of her own sorrow.
...need to comfort each other, encourage each other, and overcome together. There's no other way.
Not each of us individually, but the both of us together...
And in the end, both of us...
...which resulted in our 54th reconciliation.
And so this is the final conclusion we came to as husband and wife...
VRRRRRR

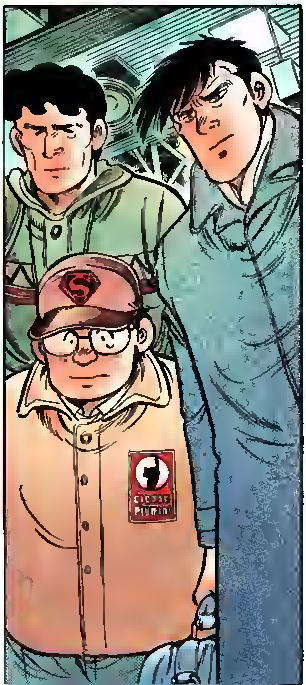

WC1i
Buses&Taxis
Underground
J...
Junko!

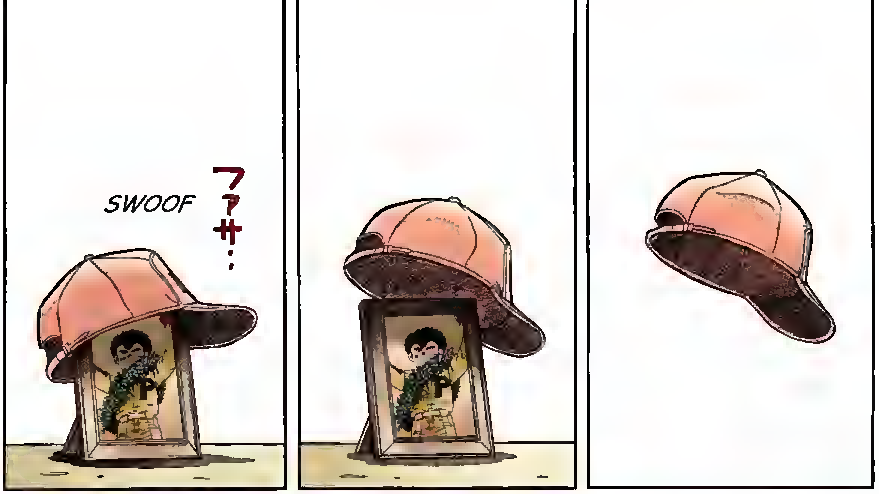

Granny...
G...

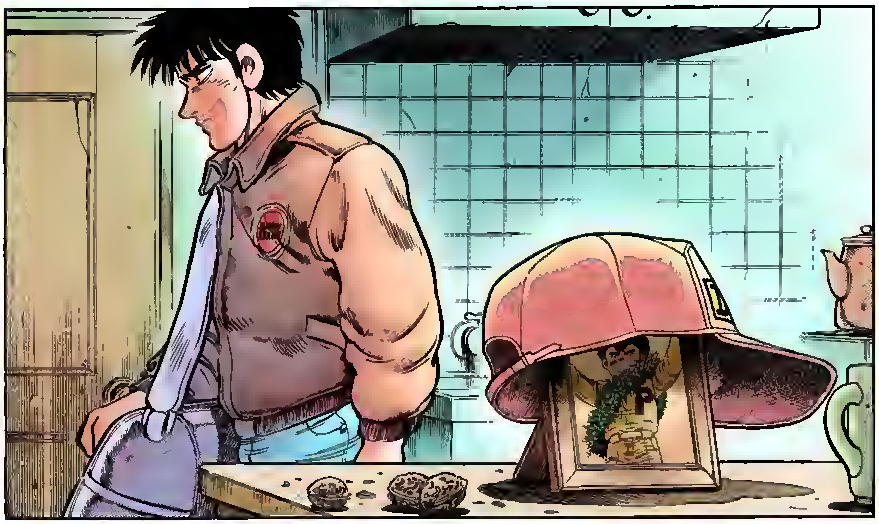


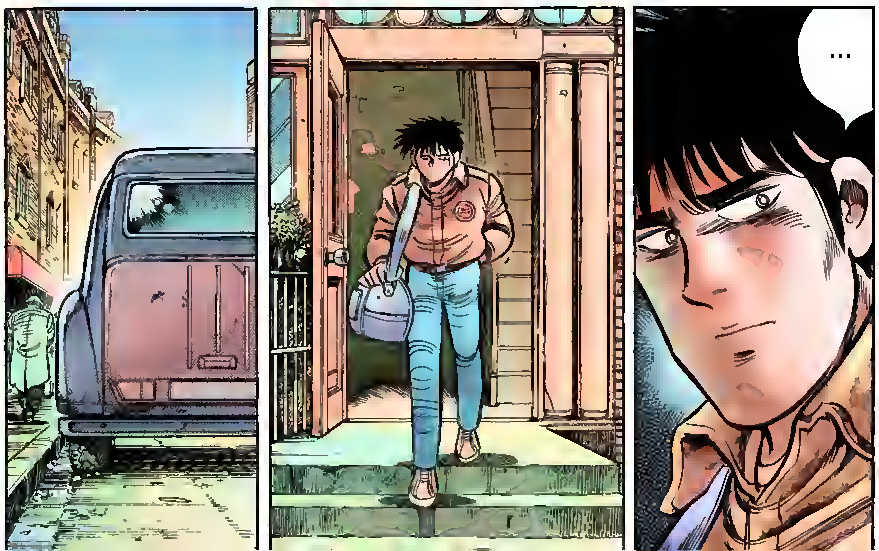


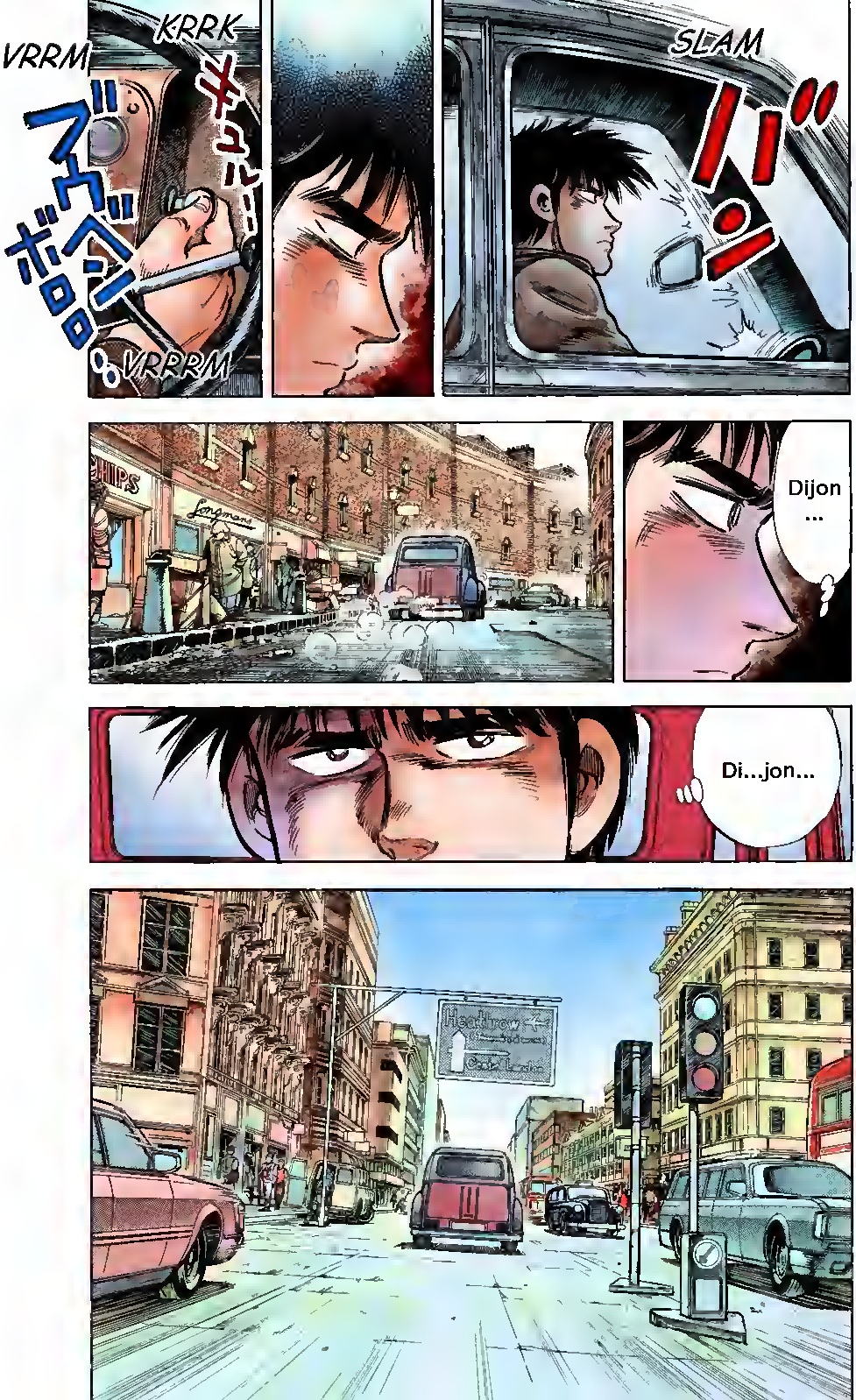





SWOOF
ファサ：

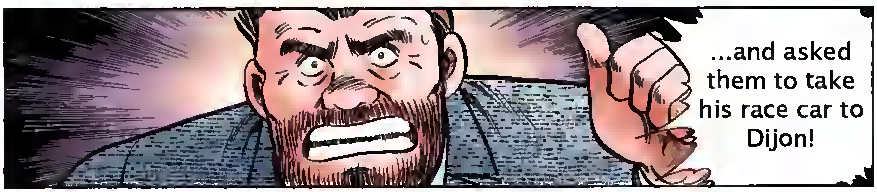


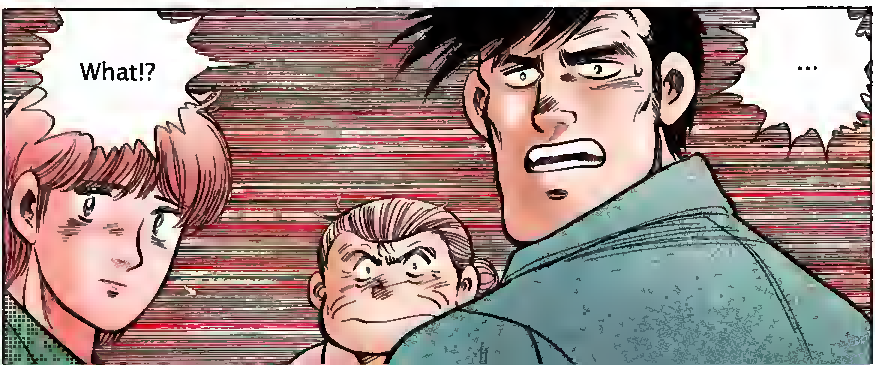

…


VRRM
KRRK
ギュー
ブスッ
ボロ
VRRM
SLAM
バン!
Longmans
Dijon
...
Di...jon...
Heathrow

Gunma's not here!

Gunma called the factory ...
We got a problem, Kuroi!
Looks like he mustered up the energy to leave the house.

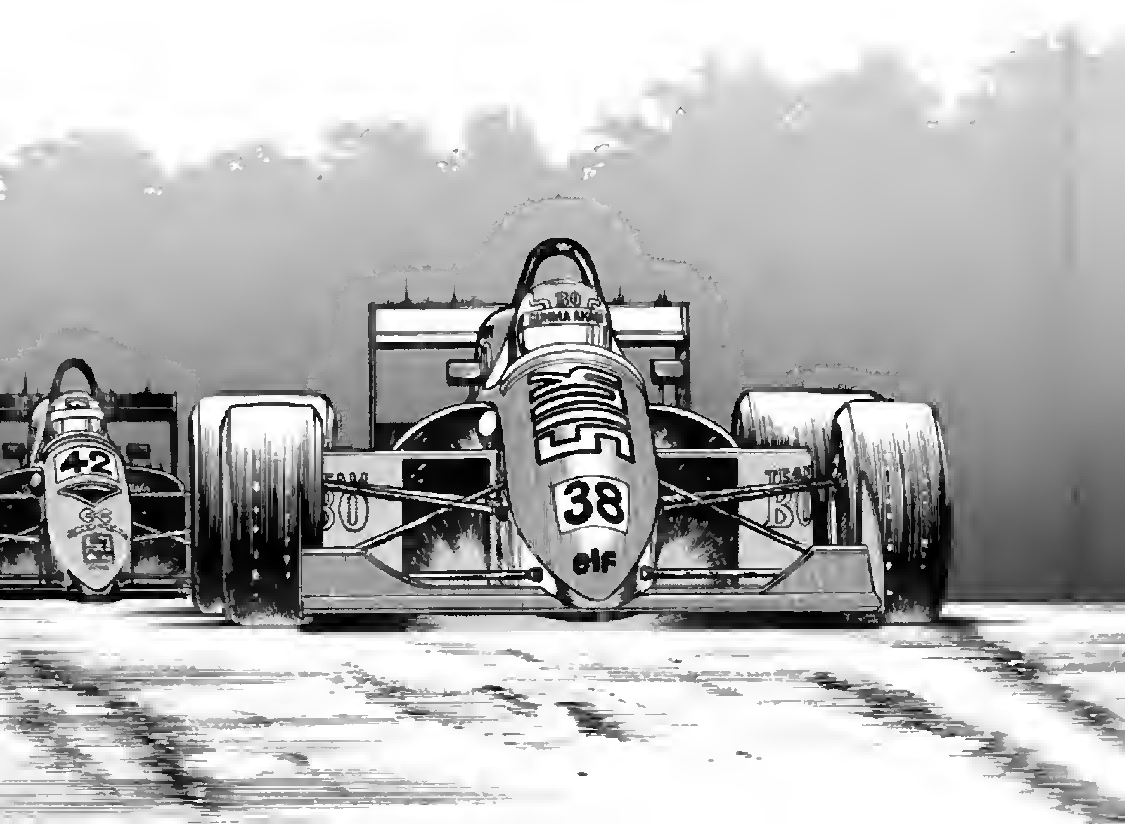

...and asked them to take his race car to Dijon!

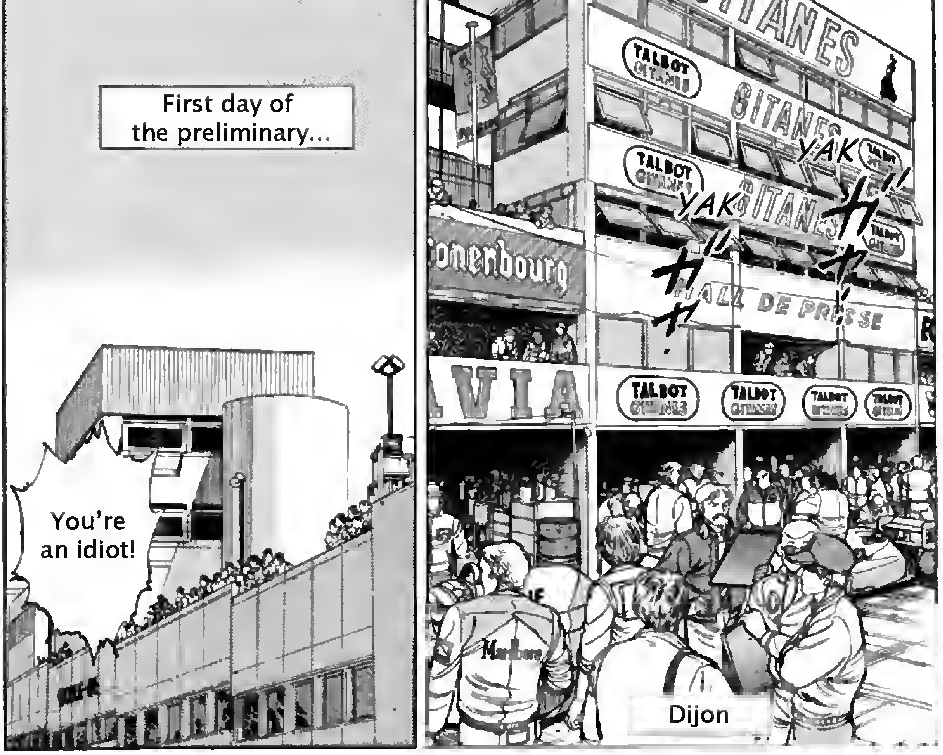

What!?
...

It hurts ...
Gunma ...
It hurts...
You were hurt and scared and anxious. Poor kid.
It really hurt, didn't it, Peabow?
Wait for me, Peabow.
It's because I let you race...
It's my fault...
...just how much pain you were in! Just wait! I won't leave you alone!
I'll find out for myself...

It's already on its way to Dijon.
Where's his car!?
DUNLOP
No... No way...
He's still a wreck, and he plans to race at the final in Dijon.
What does this mean? What is he thinking!?
You're the only one who can stop him from killing himself!
Let's go, Junko!
Come on, Junko!

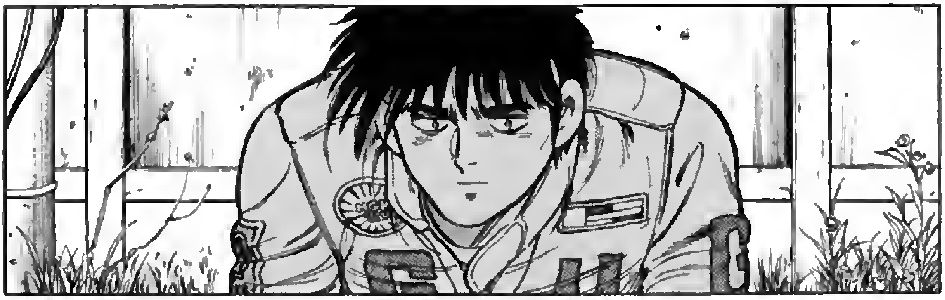
Chapter 2:
The Bond




First day of the preliminary...
You're an idiot!
GITANES
YAK
TALBOT
Dijon

For God's sake!
I had no idea you were so foolish!

Having your car brought here like that, without telling anybody...
If we hadn't come to Dijon...
...you would have pretended to join the preliminary just so you could make a show of your suicide!
And what the hell is that racing suit!? That suit was made for a brave man, not a goddamn coward!

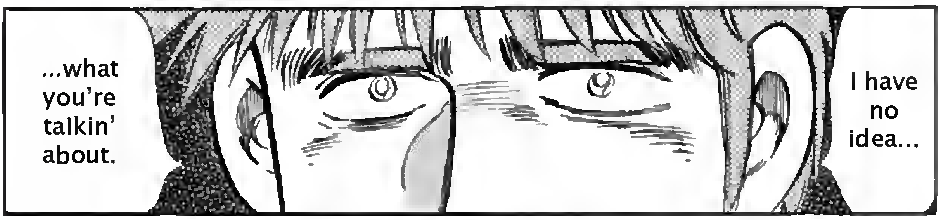


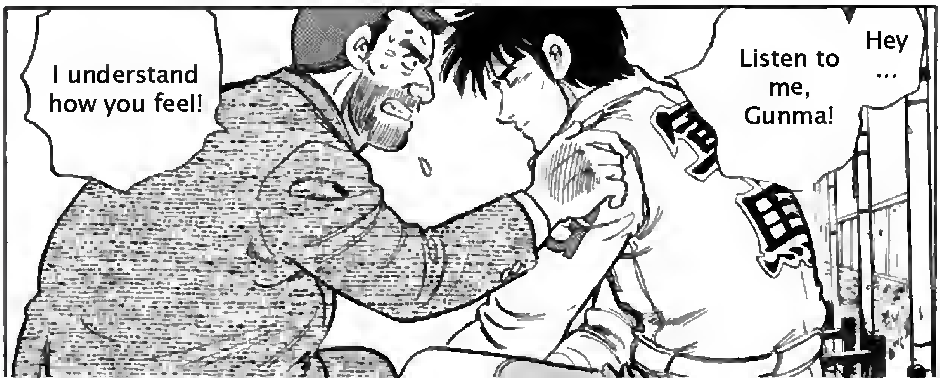
Not for the kind of coward...
...who wants to kill himself because he can't handle grief!

HA

Jesus and I are gonna race against each other for the title of this year's champion for the International F3000 Series.
The series champion is going to be decided here in Dijon.
VRRROOM
Who said anything about suicide?

Quit jumpin' to conclu-sions, Orman.
Who said I wanted to kill myself?
I have no idea what you're talkin' about.

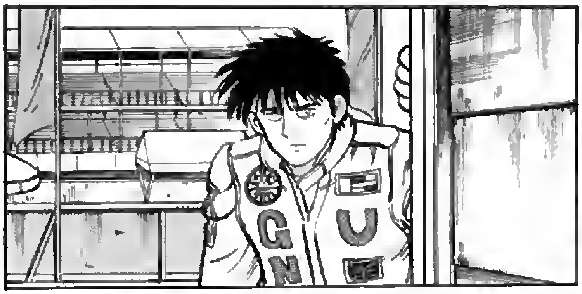

...what you're talkin' about.
I have no idea...

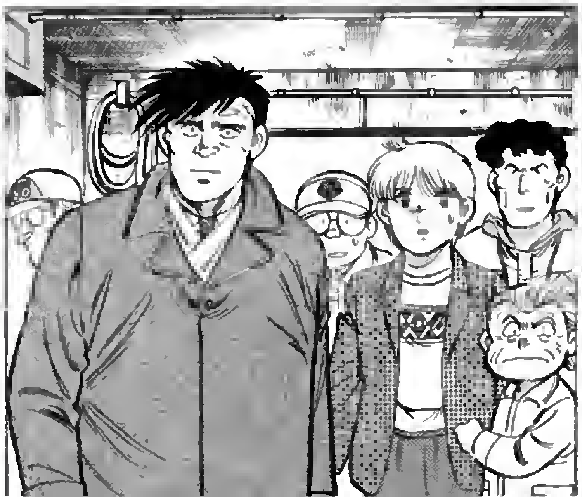

I understand how you feel!
Listen to me, Gunma!
Hey ...

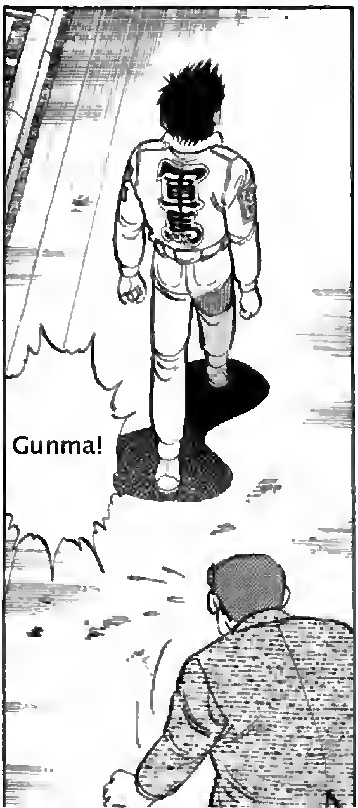
I understand how you feel. I understand so well, it hurts.
That being said, Gunma...
...whom I loved like they were my children.
I've experienced the pain of losing students...

SWF
But to die is...

I understand your desire to join Peabow in the after-world. I've felt the same thing.
You can't just die!





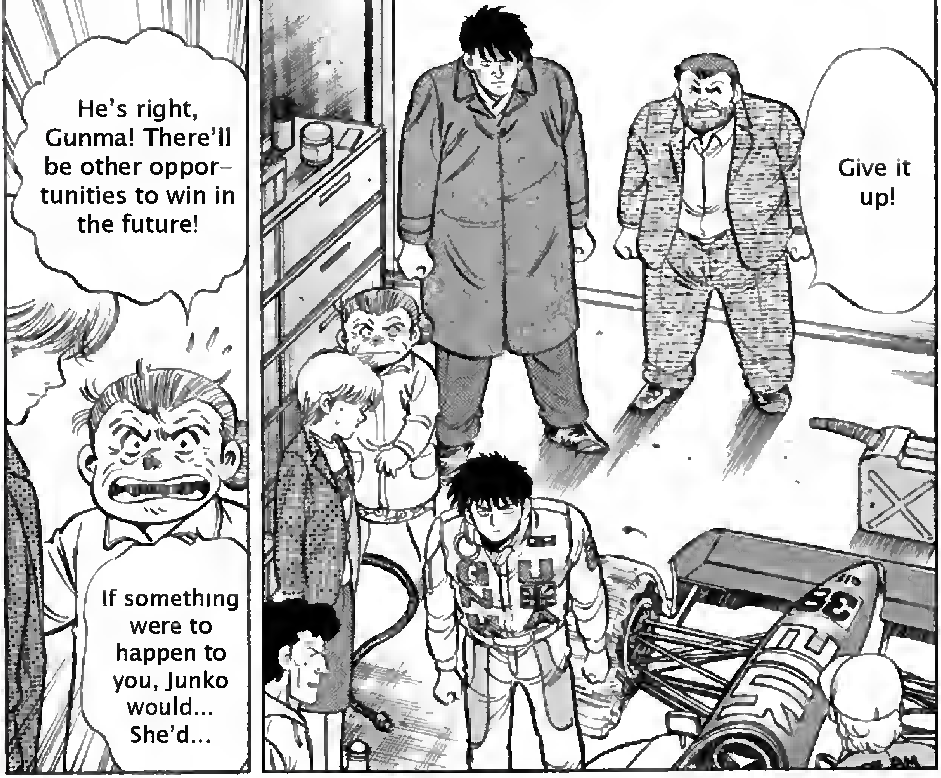

Gunma!

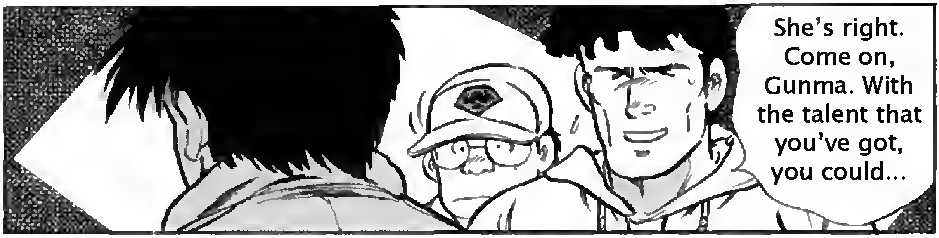
G... Gunma!
Gunma ...
Where's Tamotsu?
ZOOOM
...
You should be happy, Gunma! We've been getting Japanese sponsors, too...
An F1 car, just for you!
He wants to finish in time for next season!
He... He's busy designing an F1 car for you.
軍馬
軍馬

...before the preliminary ends.
Gun-ma...
Come on... What are ya doing?
Hurry up and get my ride ready...
You out of your mind?
Huh? Come on, Kuroi.
Just give up on Dijon.
You're in no condition to be racing.
You're the only one out of your mind. You're not entering the race. As the owner of this team, I've already decided!
...

Give it up.
We're all in this together.
If you can't get your head around that, why don't you join an amateur street race?
I said, get my ride ready.
I decide whether or not I race.
Why...?
Can you look me in the eye and tell me...
What are you saying?
My victory depends on this race...
You're tryin' to get yourself killed.
I've already explained it to you.
You got some lame, dramatic plan in mind, don't you?
Someone help me out here. Tell this old man he's insane.
He doesn't want me to win the championship ...
Look me in the eye and say it!
...that you're just trying to win the championship? That you're not trying to kill yourself?

That doesn't even amount to a sappy B movie.
...and then drive yourself right in the fence?
Enter the race, finish first, and become the champion...
Please, Orman...
...
It hurts ...
It hurts ...
Gunma...
I gotta race, no matter what... I...
I gotta race...
No means no!
I'm begging you. Just let me race...


He's right, Gunma! There'll be other opportunities to win in the future!
If something were to happen to you, Junko would... She'd...
Give it up!

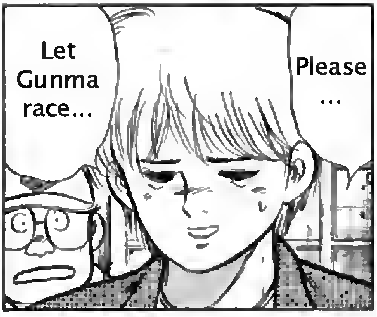

She's right. Come on, Gunma. With the talent that you've got, you could...

Gu... Gunma ...
Orman ...!

GRAB
Get off him, Gunma.
I'm begging you.
Orman ...
Let me race. Please, let me race!
...
Or...
... man ...

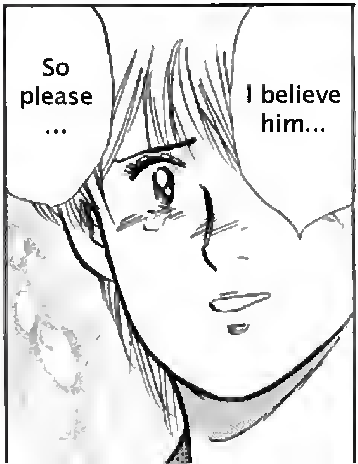
Please...
Please let him race...

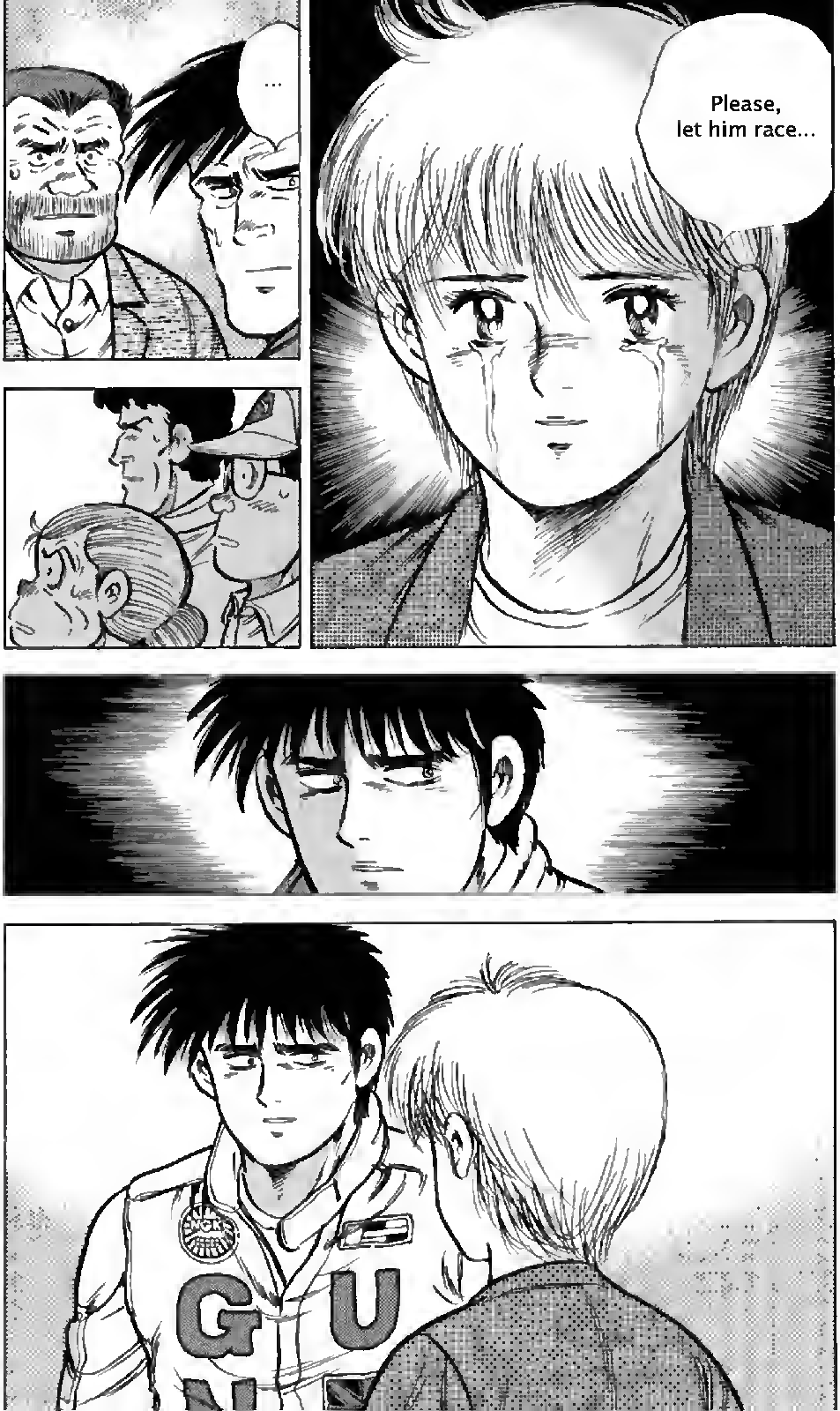
!?
Ju...
Junko...!?

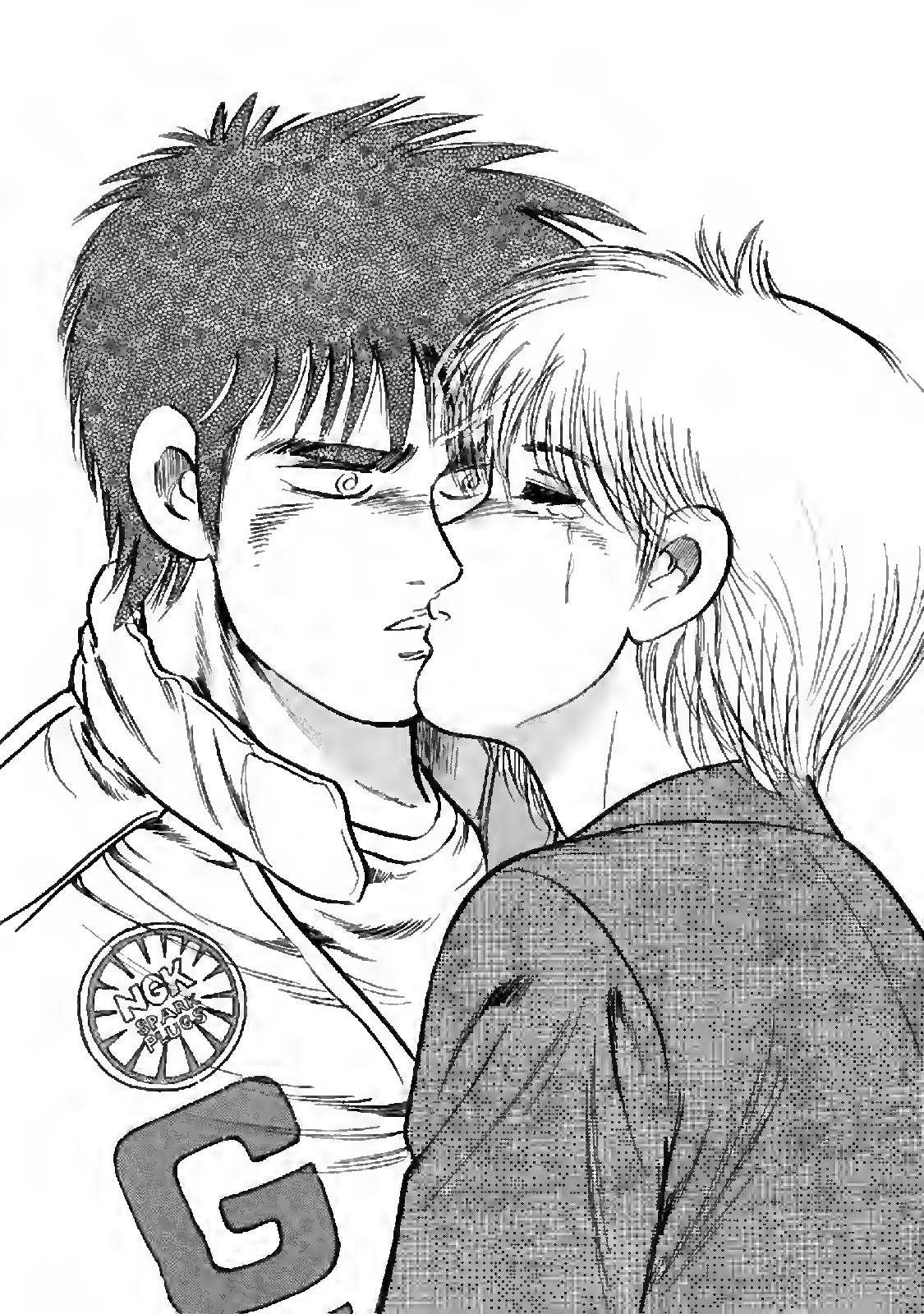

Let Gunma race...
Please ...

He's not going to kill himself.
He doesn't want to die.

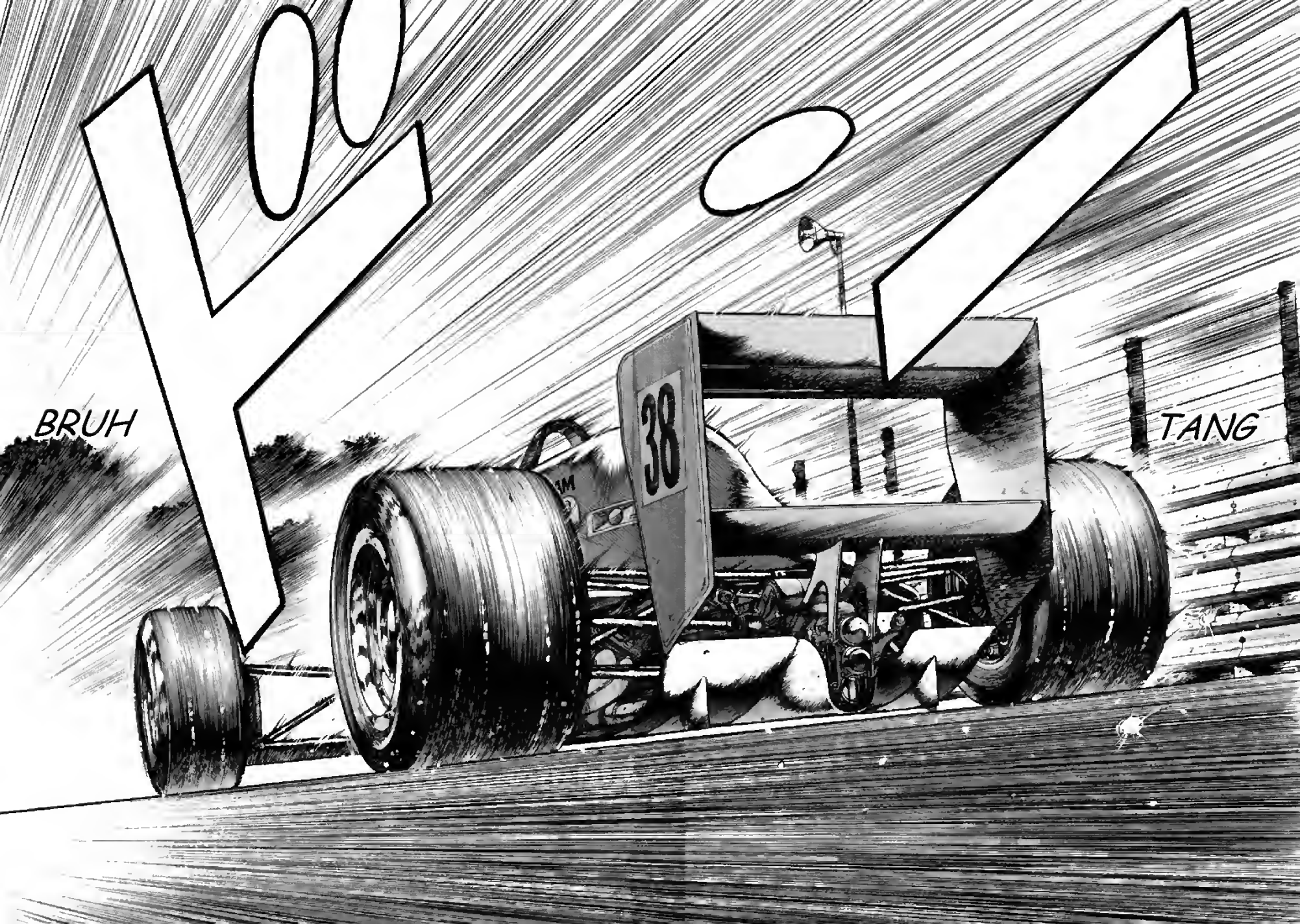
But ...
...to clear his mind is to finish the race.
So please...
Junko! What's gotten into you!?
I think the only way for him...

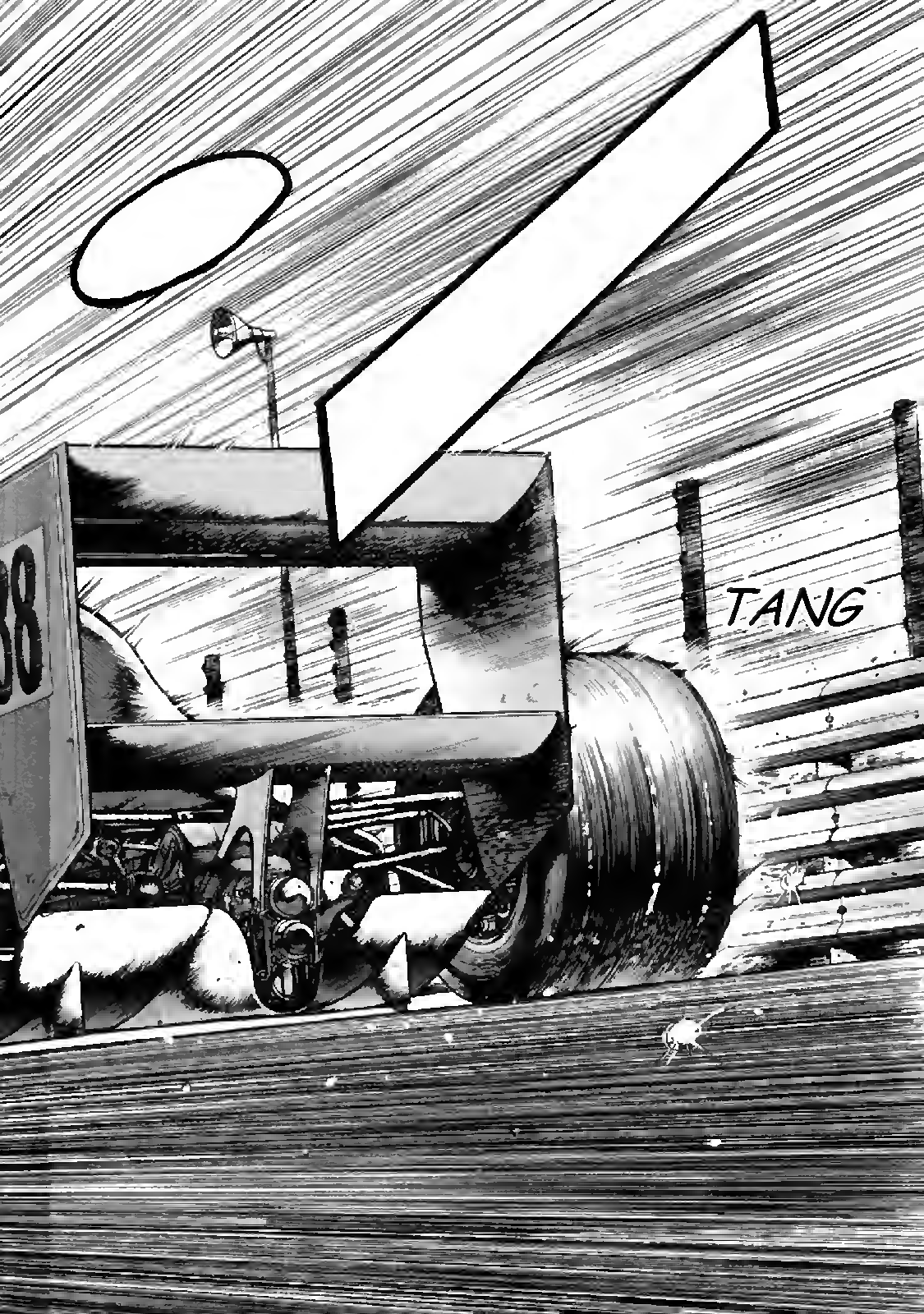

So please ...
I believe him...

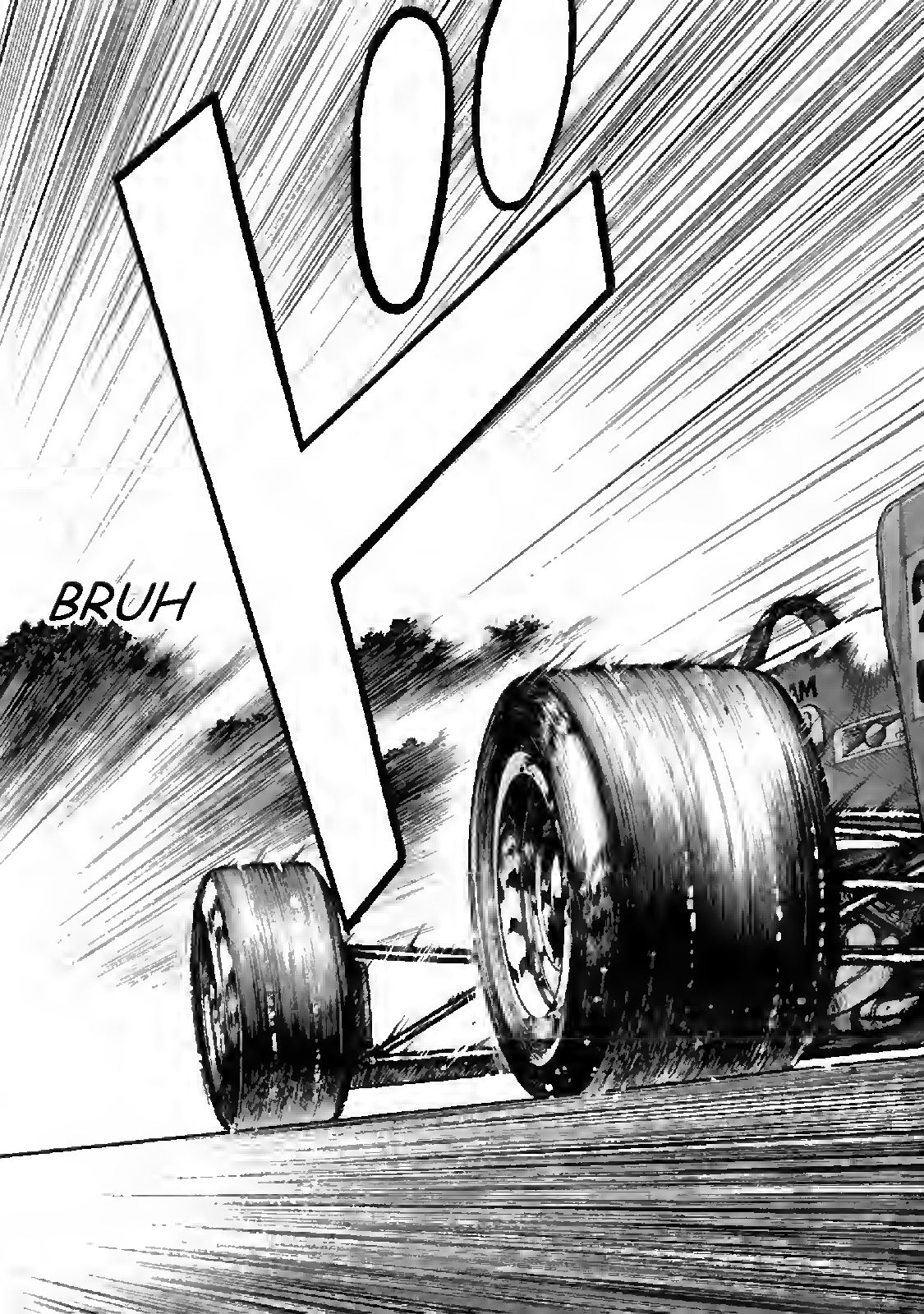

...
Please,
let him race...
G U


NGK
SPARK PLUGS

I believe in you, Gunma...
I...
...
GUNMA

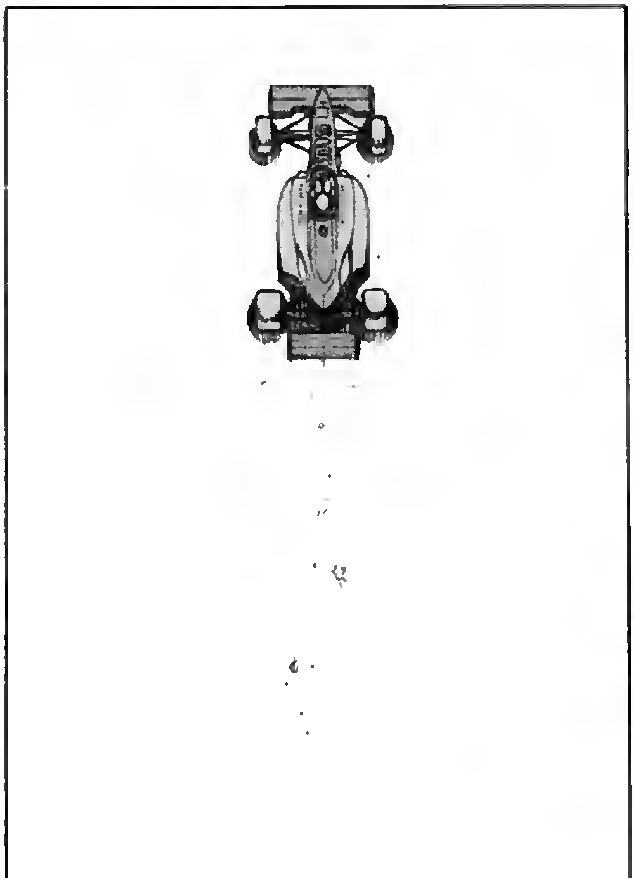

BRUH
38
TANG

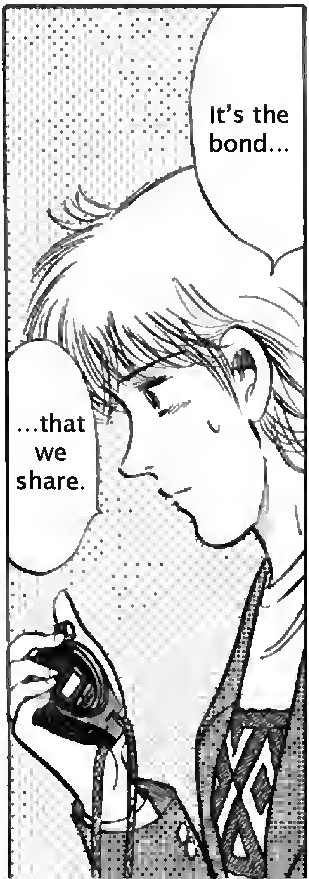

TANG


BRUH

VROOOOH
I was expecting you to be on our side...
For heaven's sake...
And now look what's happened.

What made you think he's telling the truth!?




It's the bond...
...that we share.

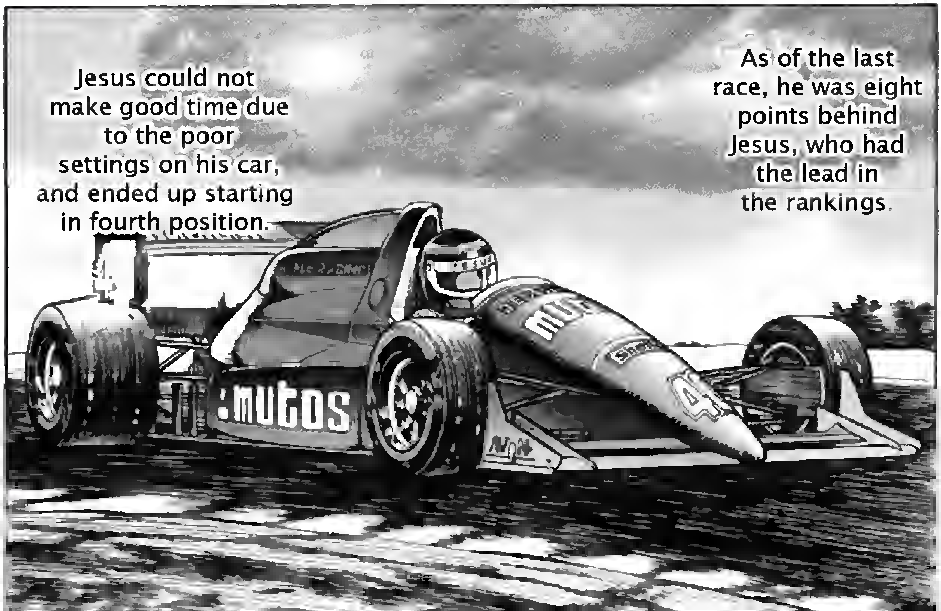
In the International F3000 Series final, the Dijon GP...

...Gunma made record times in both the first and second days of the preliminary, earning him pole position.

Chapter 3: Wild Start

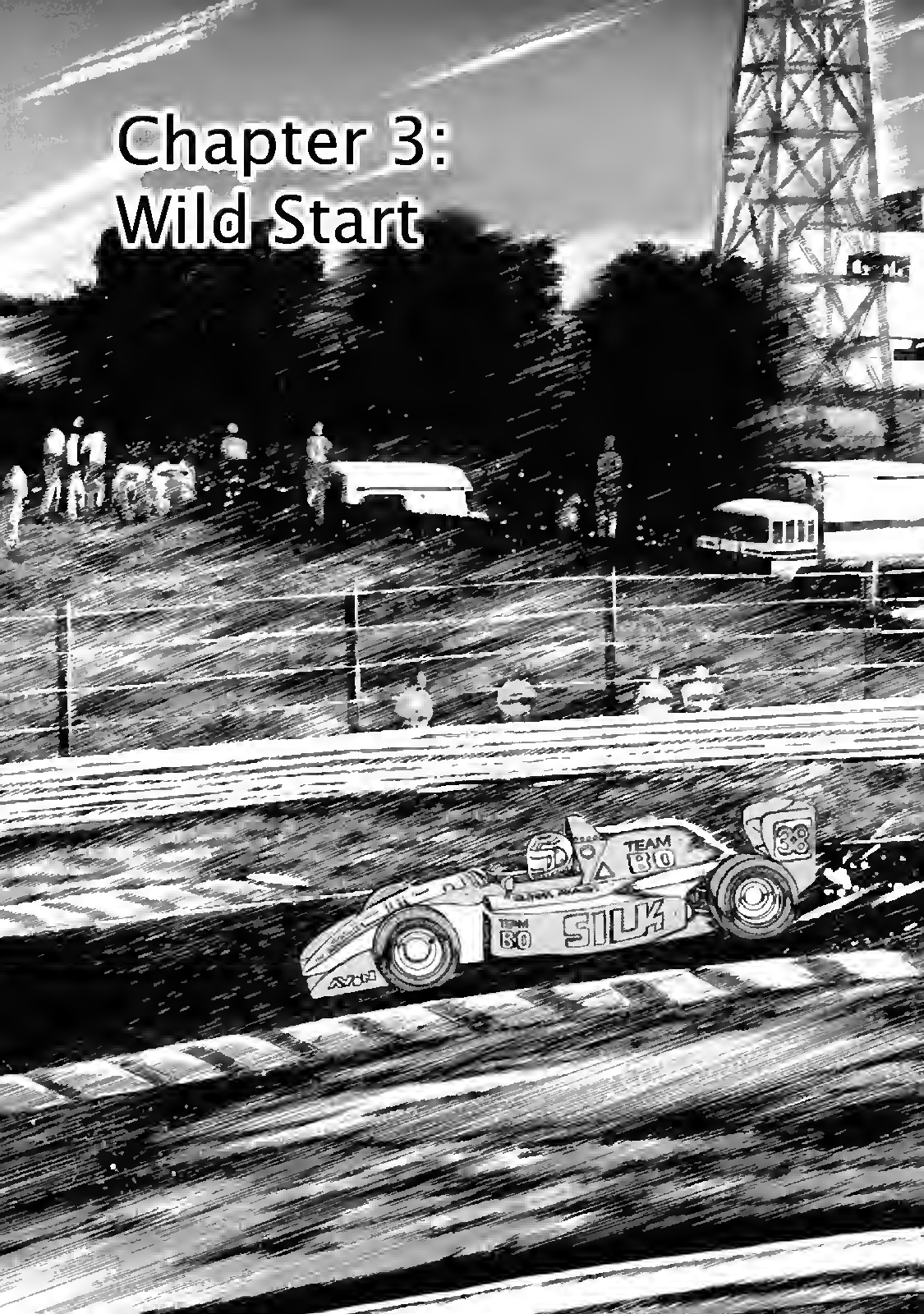
Jesus could not make good time due to the poor settings on his car, and ended up starting in fourth position.

As of the last race, he was eight points behind Jesus, who had the lead in the rankings.



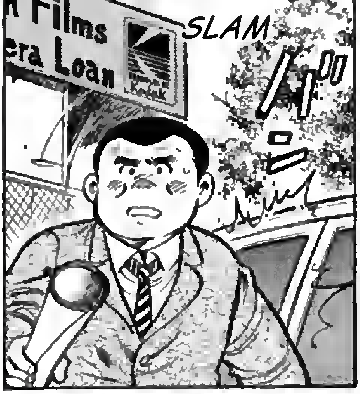
Chapter 3:
Wild Start
Marlboro
Marlboro
TEAM
TOM
SILK
AVON

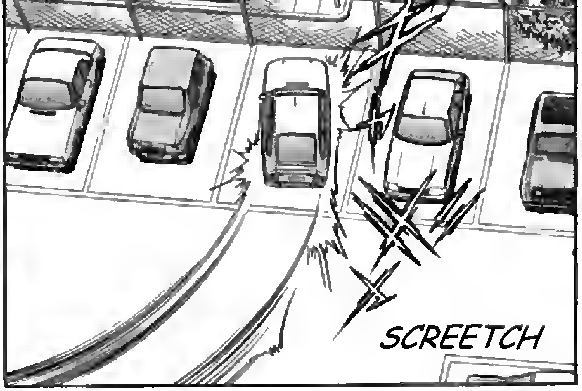
Marlboro
Marlboro
AVON

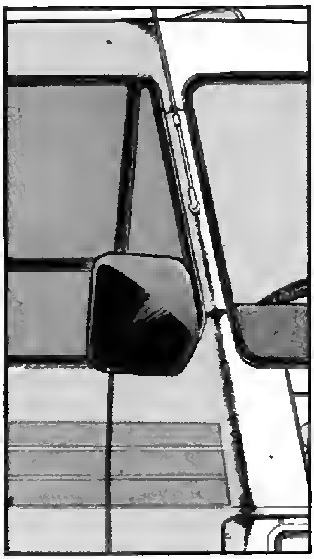

Chapter 3:
Wild Start
TEAM
BO
38
SUZUKI

I underestimated you, Gunma! You are truly a professional!
Man! You really are something!
Will do.
All right.
I'm just gonna rest from now until the final. Tell the press I don't wanna do any interviews.Please.
GUNMA
TEAM
Uhh... Sure.
Would you move out of the way, Orman? I want to shower in the motorhome.
AKAGI
TEAM
He's a mess...

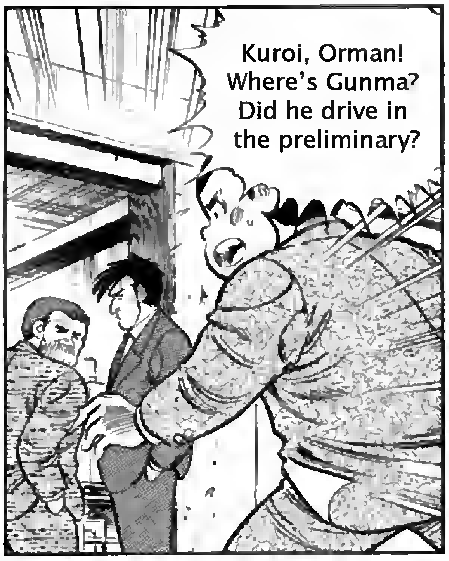
Yeah, I know...
No matter how fast or how slow, a total wreck.
Just like those tires.
!?
I'd doubt it.
The question is, will his wounds heal during the time I keep him from racing?
If I made him drop out of this race, there would still be the next race. If I made him abstain from the next, there'd still be the one after that...
He would end up racing eventually ...
I can't keep telling him not to race forever.
The bonds that link him to all of us...
We have to cling to our bonds.
Then I just have to trust Junko.
VROOOOM

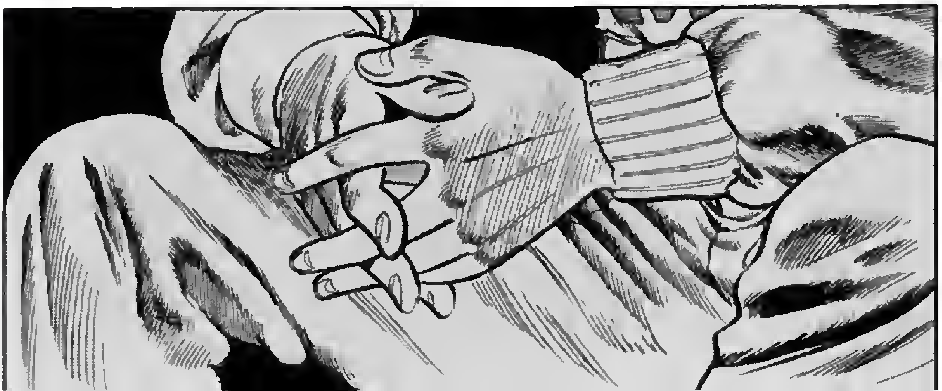

SLAM


SCREETCH

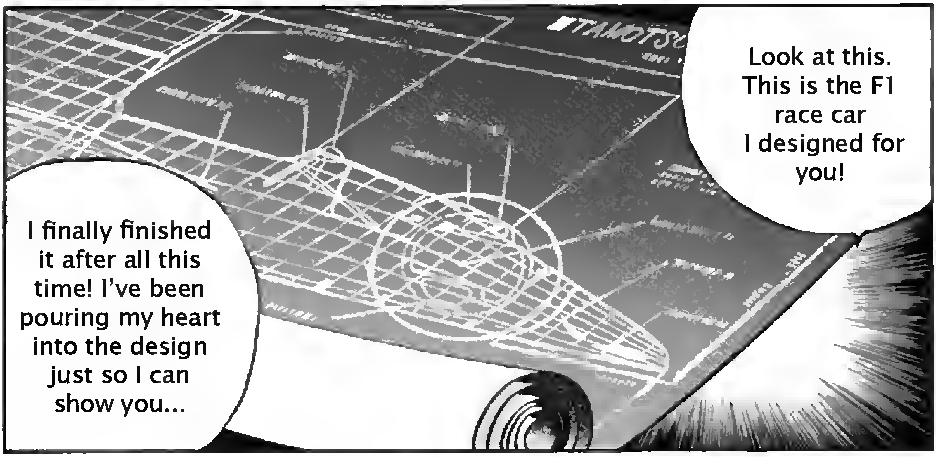


Yeah...
He made
a course
record...

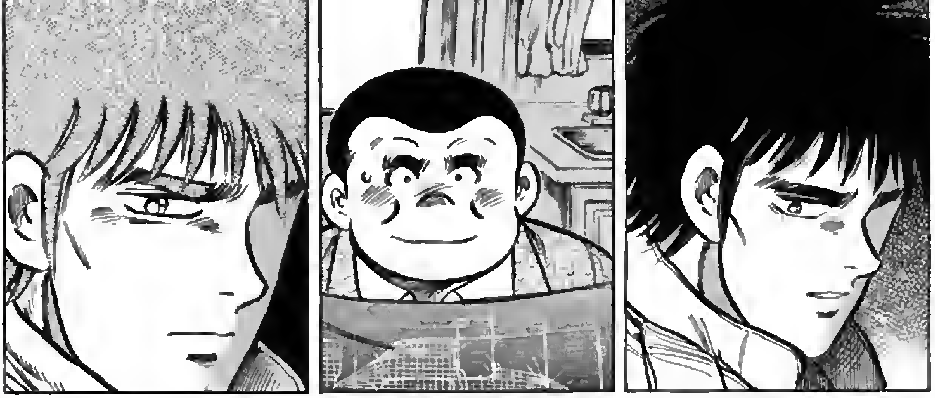

Kuroi, Orman!
Where's Gunma?
Did he drive in
the preliminary?



There's something I really wanna show you...
I'm coming in. I'll make it short.
KACHUK
Gunma...
Gunma
...
...
Can I come in?
KNOCK
KNOCK

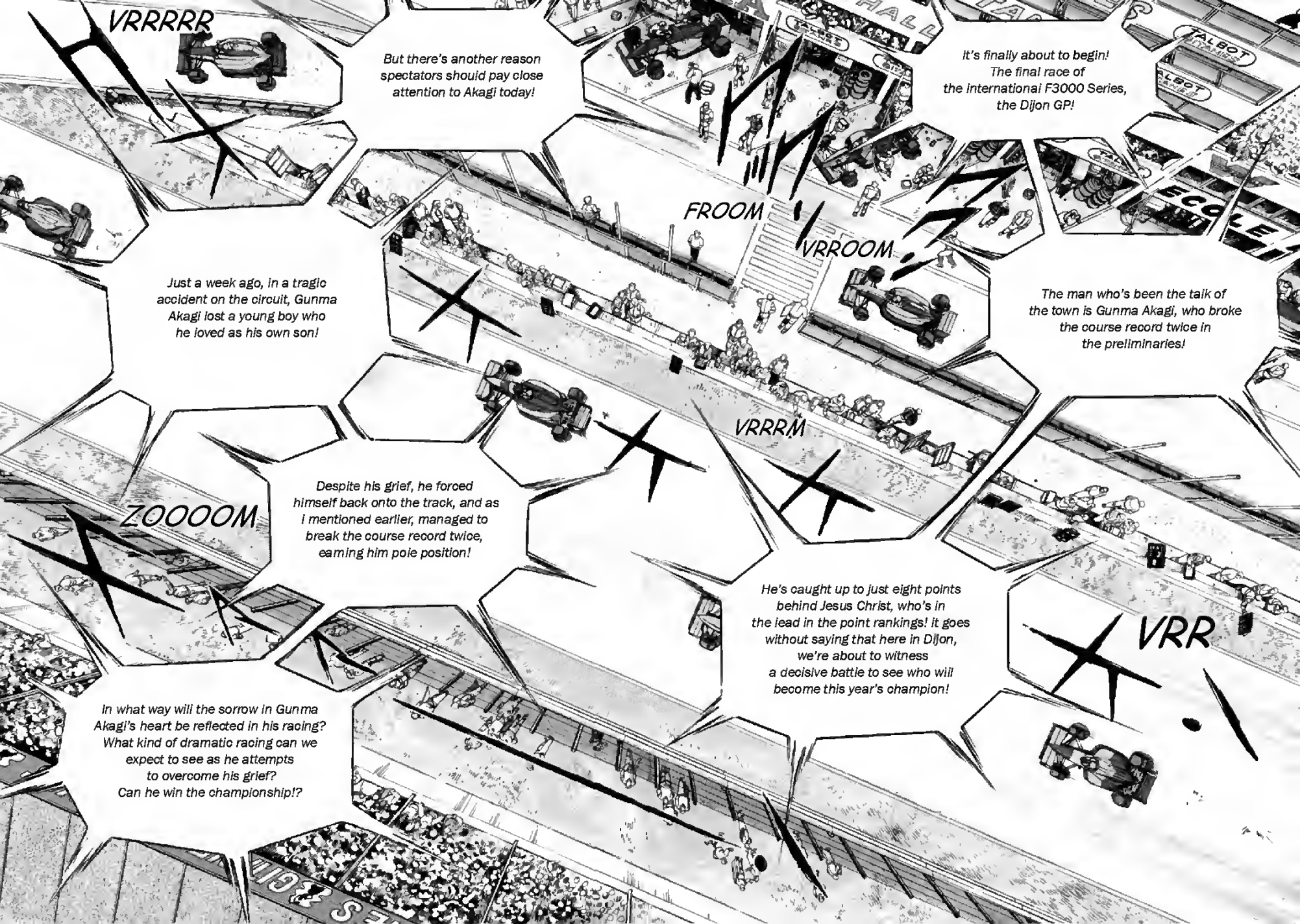

I finally finished it after all this time! I've been pouring my heart into the design just so I can show you...
Look at this. This is the F1 race car I designed for you!

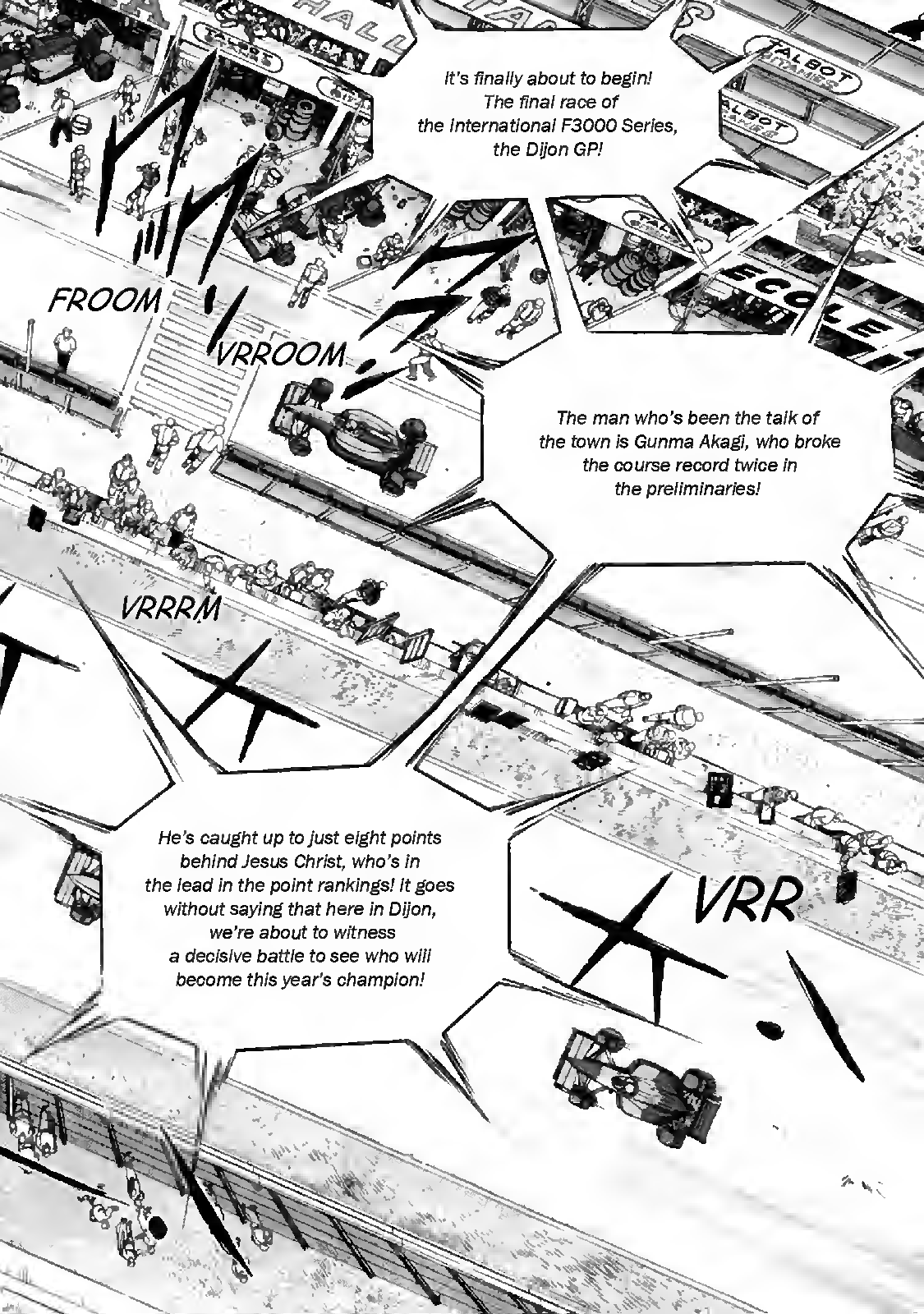
This is our ride!
Come on, Gunma, have a look!
GUNMA



...
I'll have a look later...
Sorry. I just need to rest. That's all.
I'm tired, Tamotsu ...

パタン
SLAM
How's he doin' in there?
Tamotsu ...
...
I dunno... He just said he's tired...
I just don't know...
...Gunma.
I believe in you...


VRRRRR
But there's another reason spectators should pay close attention to Akagi today!
It's finally about to begin! The final race of the international F3000 Series, the Dijon GP!
FROOM
VROOM
Just a week ago, in a tragic accident on the circuit, Gunma Akagi lost a young boy who he loved as his own son!
The man who's been the talk of the town is Gunma Akagi, who broke the course record twice in the preliminaries!
VRRRM
ZOOOOM
Despite his grief, he forced himself back onto the track, and as I mentioned earlier, managed to break the course record twice, earning him pole position!
He's caught up to just eight points behind Jesus Christ, who's in the lead in the point rankings! It goes without saying that here in Dijon, we're about to witness a decisive battle to see who will become this year's champion!
VRR
In what way will the sorrow in Gunma Akagi's heart be reflected in his racing? What kind of dramatic racing can we expect to see as he attempts to overcome his grief? Can he win the championship!?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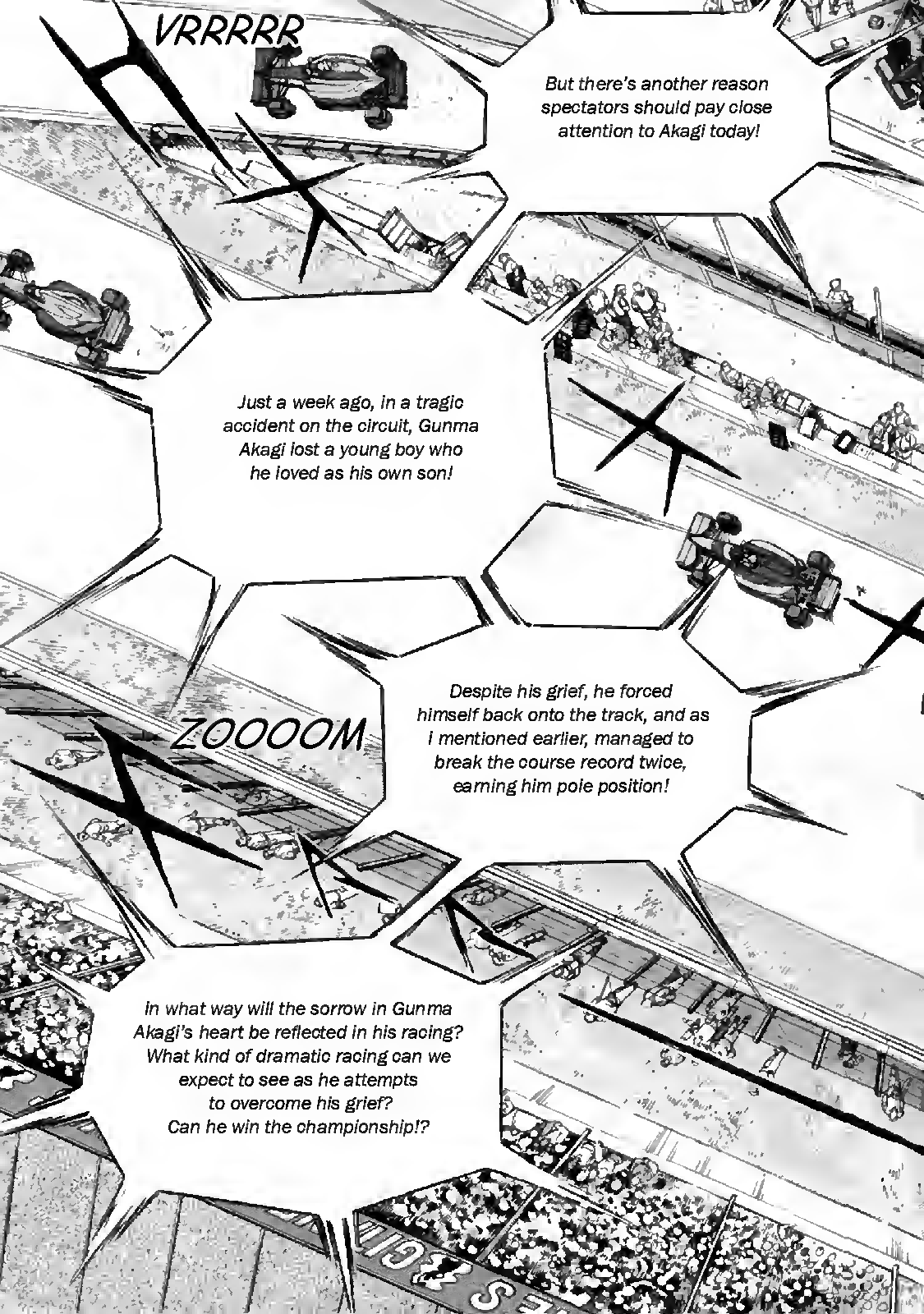
VRR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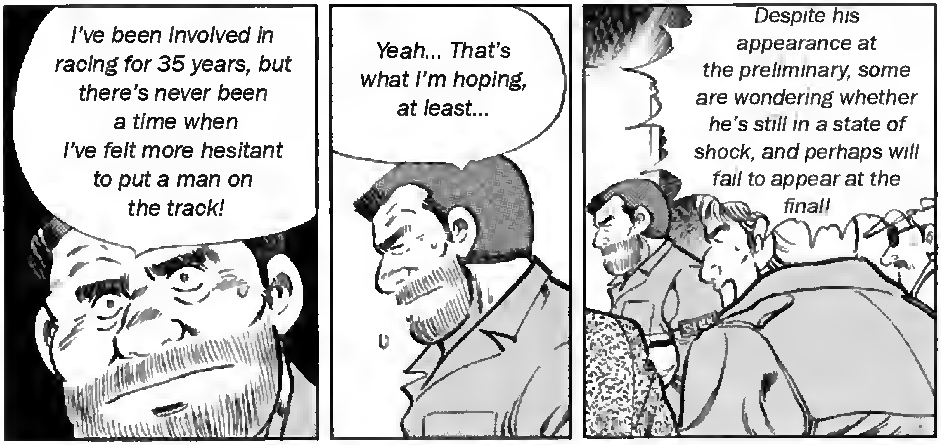
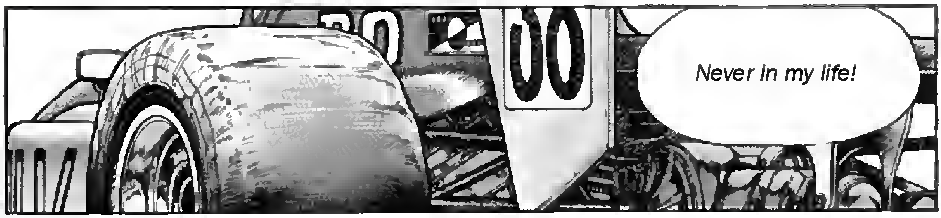
Orman!
He didn't even practice this morning!
He's secluded himself in his motorhome and won't come out!
CHATTER
It's no use. He's shut out the press completely!
Interviews are out of the question!
If we could just get one photo of him...
CHATTER


I've been involved in racing for 35 years, but there's never been a time when I've felt more hesitant to put a man on the track!
Yeah... That's what I'm hoping, at least...
Despite his appearance at the preliminary, some are wondering whether he's still in a state of shock, and perhaps will fail to appear at the final!

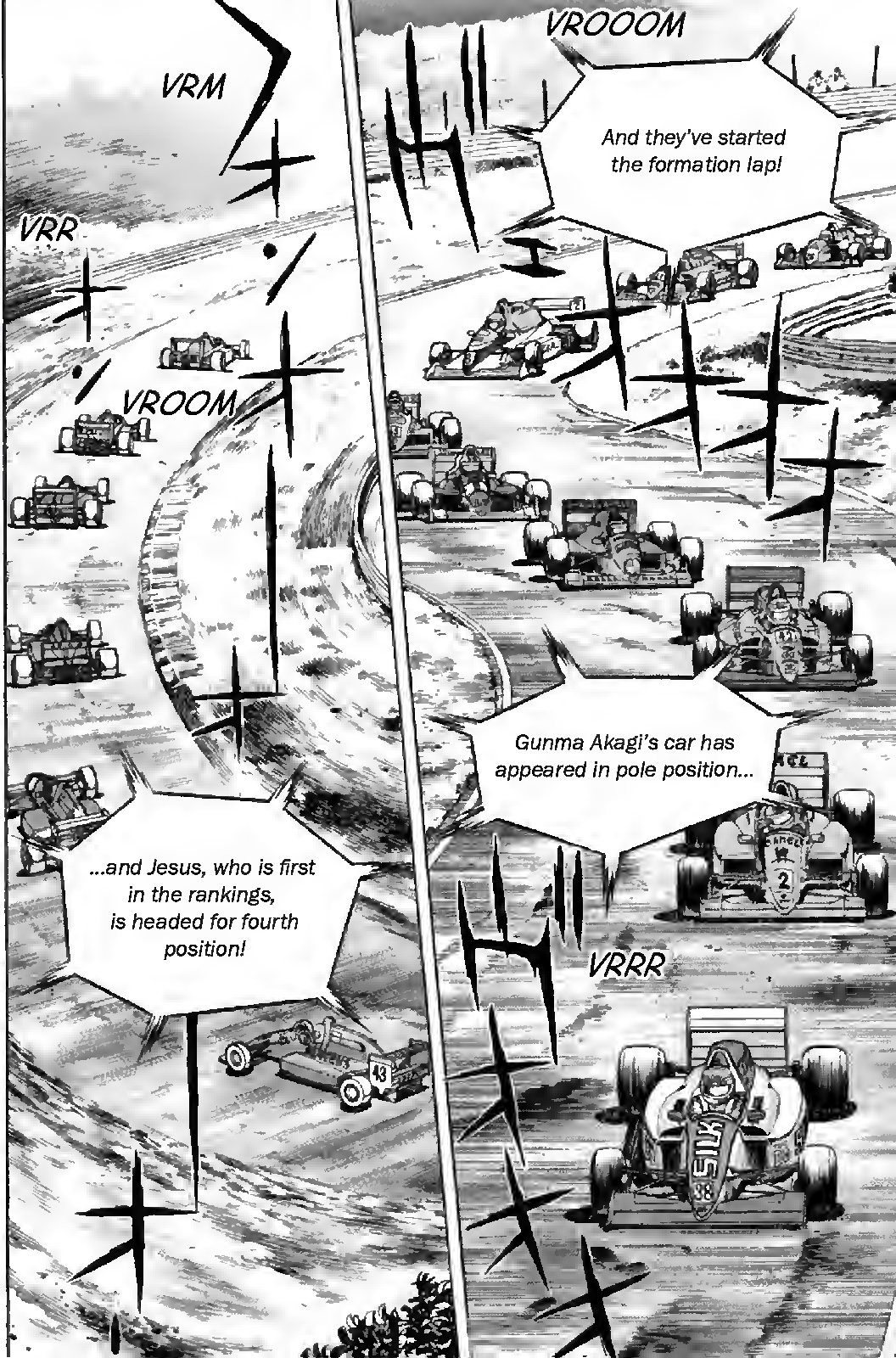

00
Never in my life!

Gunma Akagi isn't gonna show!?
I guess Gunma Akagi's out of the race...

AAKAGI
TEAM
CREAK
!!
TEAM

GUNMA AKAGI
GUNMA AKAGI
GUNMA AKAGI
AKAGI
AKAGI

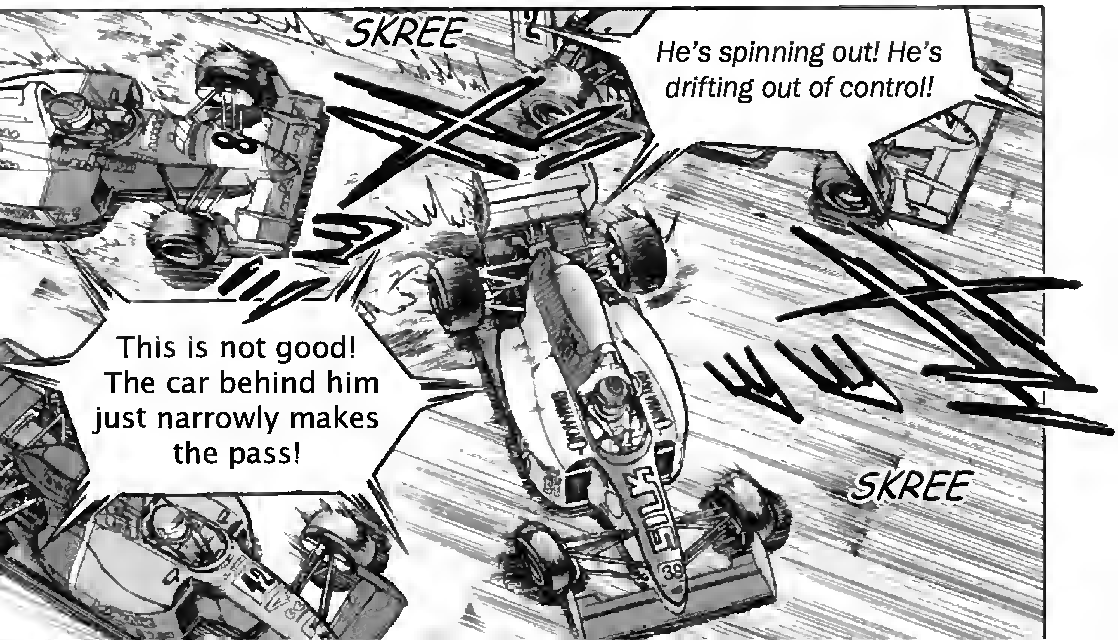
So you're gonna do this, huh...!?
...
AKAGI
NOD
コク。
...the engine.
Start up...
I believe in you, Gunma...
GITANES
TALBOT GITANES


VRM
VRR
VROOM
...and Jesus, who is first in the rankings, is headed for fourth position!
VROOOM
And they've started the formation lap!
Gunma Akagi's car has appeared in pole position...
VRRR

F84 OUTANES OUTANES
In just moments, the final round, the Dijon GP...
...will begin!
TEAM BO
VRRRRRRRR
SLAM

The signal has turned green!
VROOOOOM
All racers have stepped on the gas!
But wait, what's this? Gunma Akagi is...
Gunma Akagi's car!
VROOOOOOM

SKREE
Oh, no! Gunma Akagi...
WURTH
...has suddenly started swerving all over the track!
KRR
Chapter 4: A Samba of Love and Illusion


SKREE
He's spinning out! He's drifting out of control!
This is not good! The car behind him just narrowly makes the pass!
SKREE

Chapter 4:
A Samba of Love and Illusion
VROOOM
SCREEK
VROOOOOH
ZOOOM
In the free-for-all following the start of the race, the racers are all passing Akagi one by one!
Gunma Akagi continues to swing his car left and right...
It's as if his car is throwing a tantrum, refusing to run!

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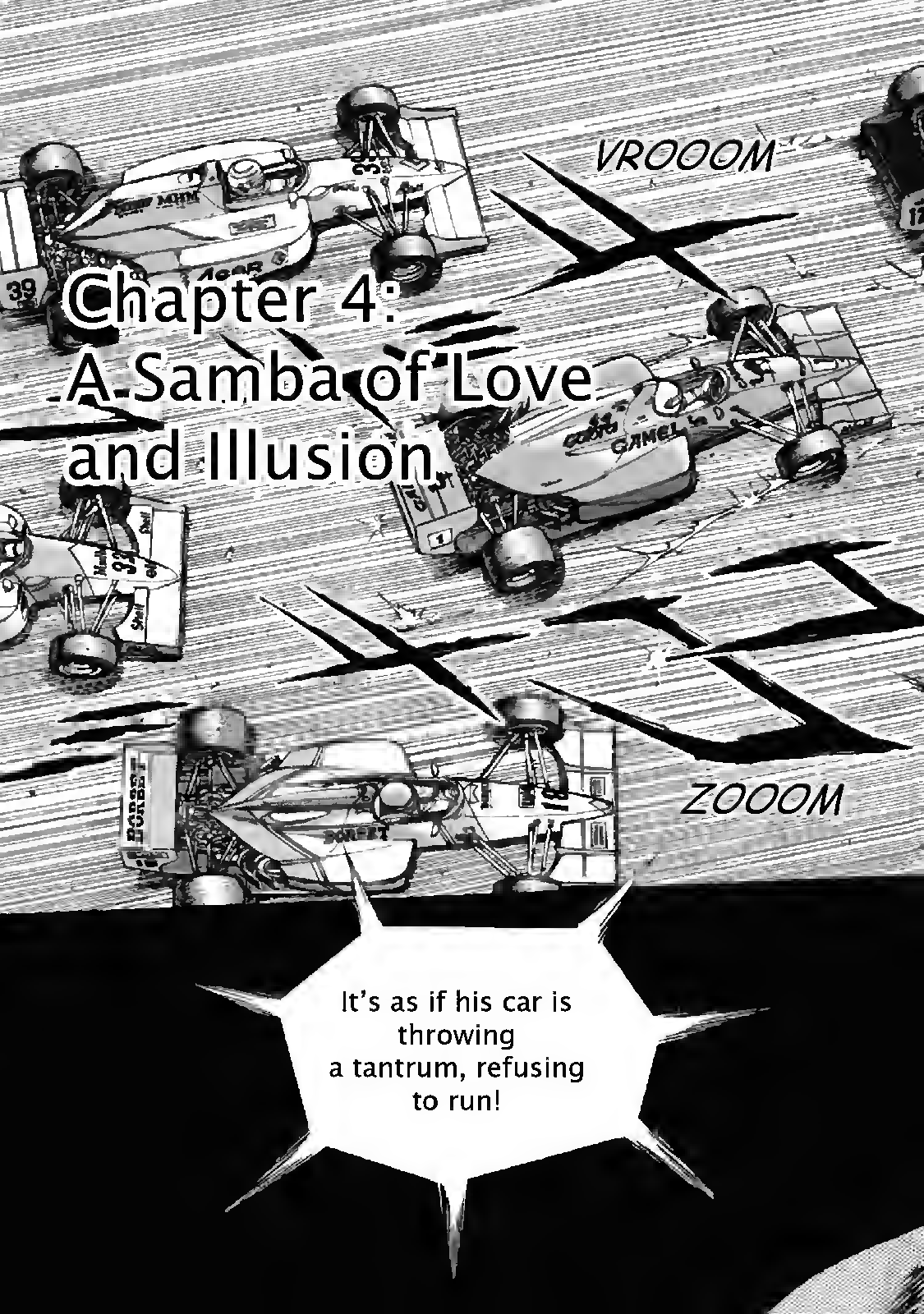
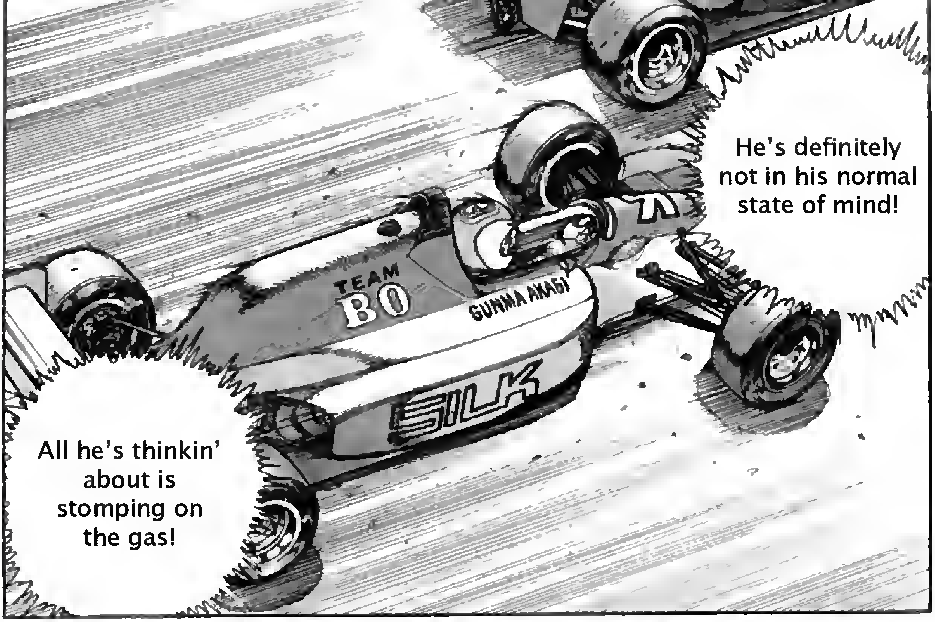
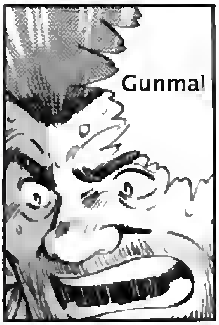
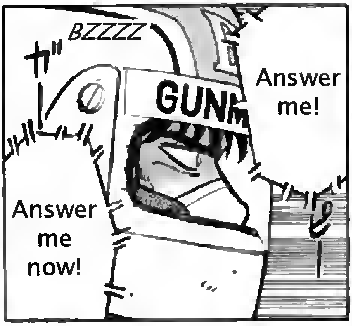
SCREEK
VROOOOOH
Gunma Akagi continues to swing his car left and right...


VROOOM
Chapter 4:
A Samba of Love
and Illusion
ZOOOM
It's as if his car is
throwing
a tantrum, refusing
to run!

SKREEEE
B.O
AKAGI
TEAM
VROOOOOH
He's just scraping the rubber off his tires!
How is he handling that clutch...?
Christ ...

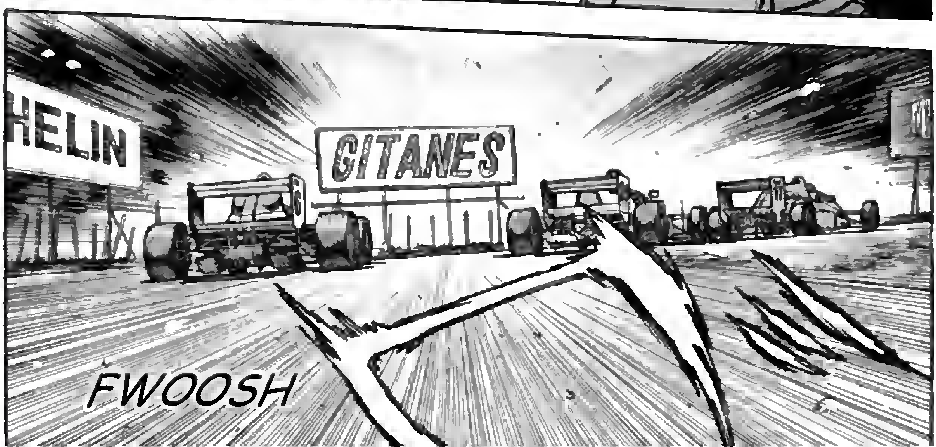

He's definitely not in his normal state of mind!
TEAM
BO
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK
All he's thinkin' about is stomping on the gas!

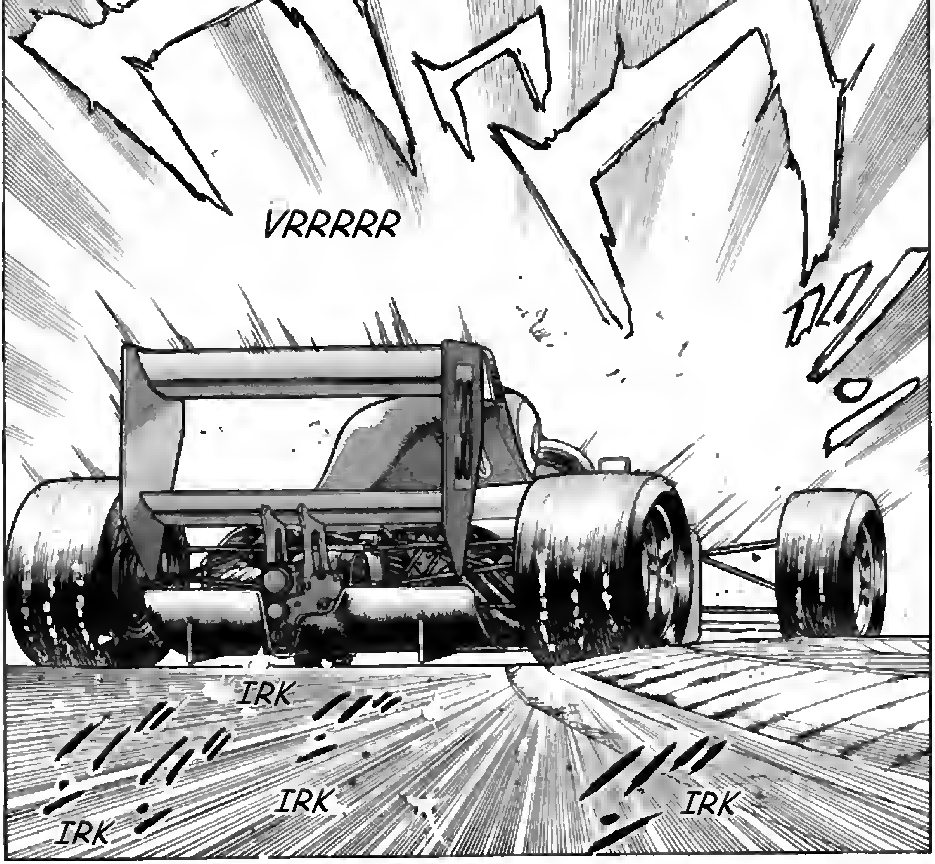

Gunma!


BZZZZ
GUNM
Answer me!
Answer me now!

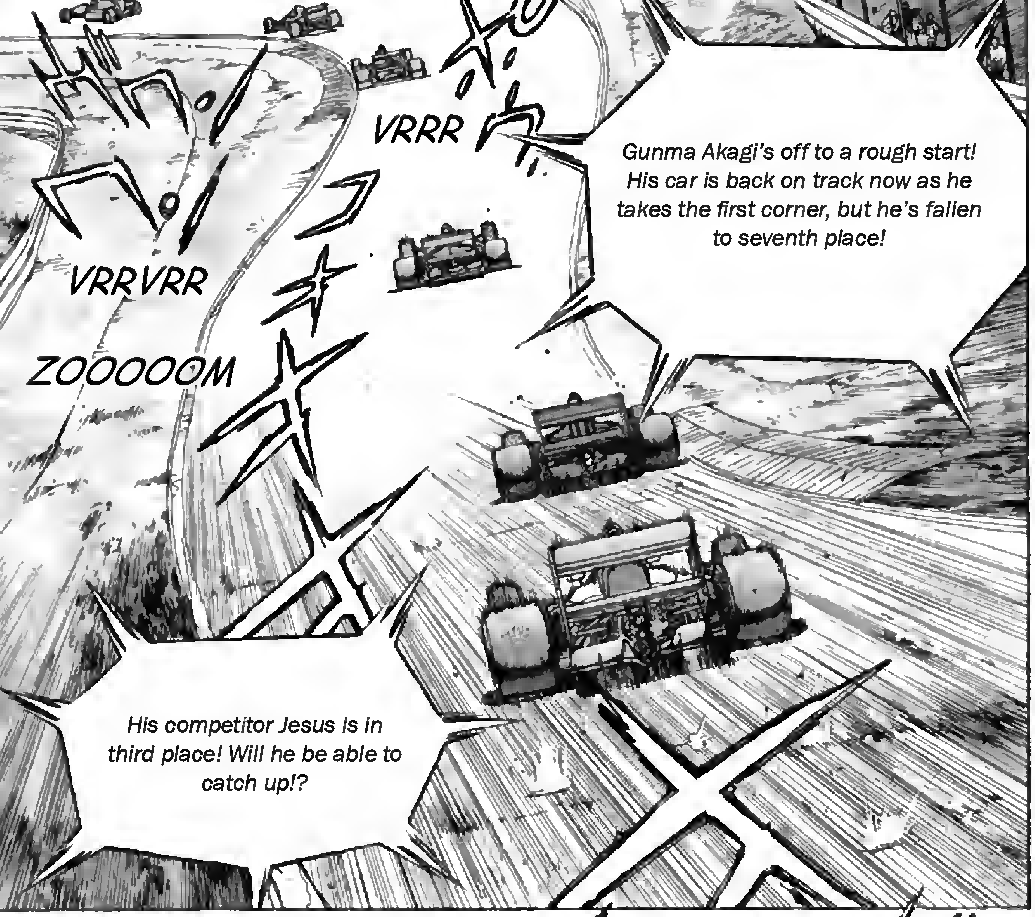
Dammit, Gunma! Can you hear me!?

GRIP

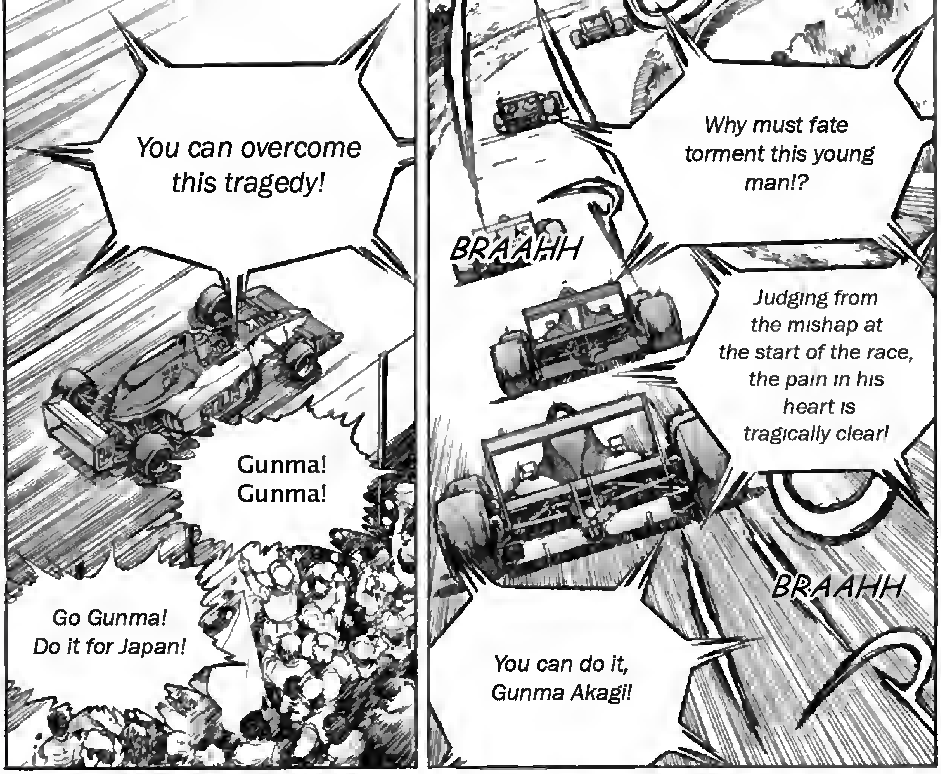

HELIN
GITANES
FWOOSH


VRRRRR
IRK
IRK
IRK
IRK

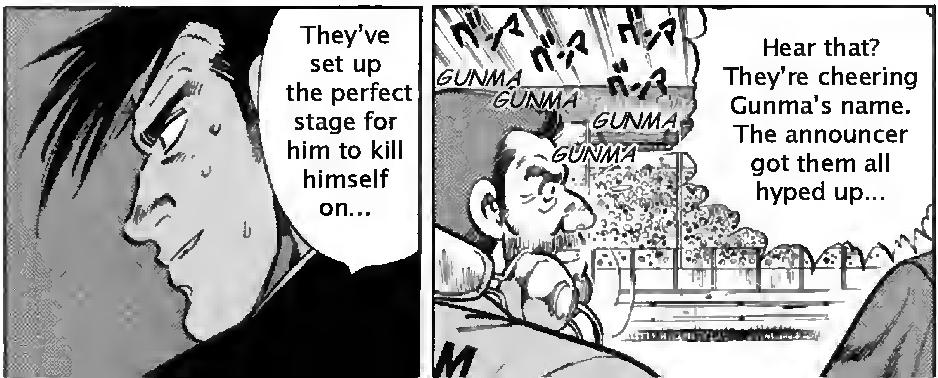
Gun-ma...
!!
That... that idiot!
He switched off his inter-phone!
STOMP


VRRR
VRRVRR
ZOOOOOM
Gunma Akagi's off to a rough start! His car is back on track now as he takes the first corner, but he's fallen to seventh place!
His competitor Jesus is in third place! Will he be able to catch up!?

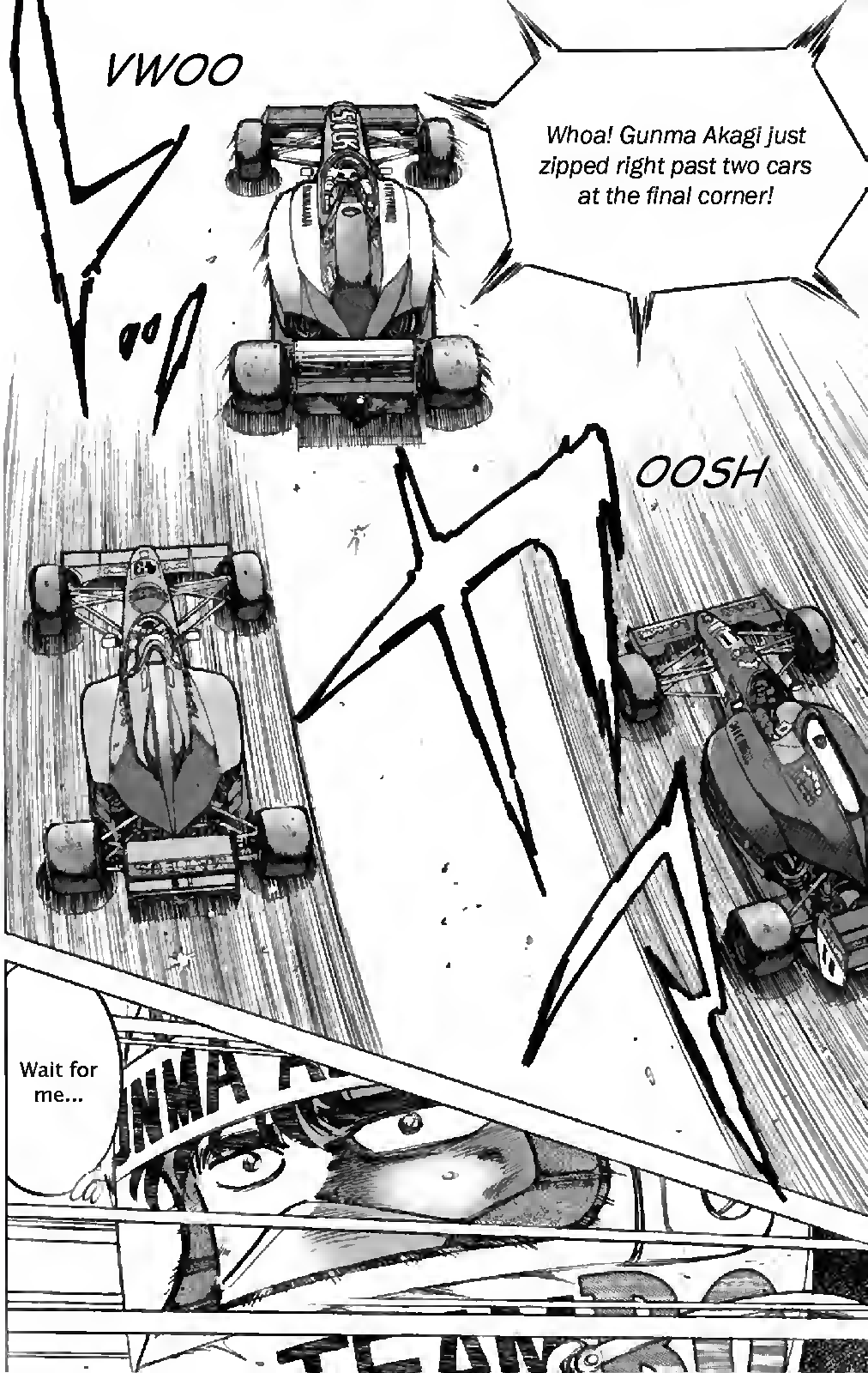
VROO
ZOOOM
Despite his deep sorrow, Gunma Akagi continues to race! But he's never shown this kind of lack of control before!
VREHHH

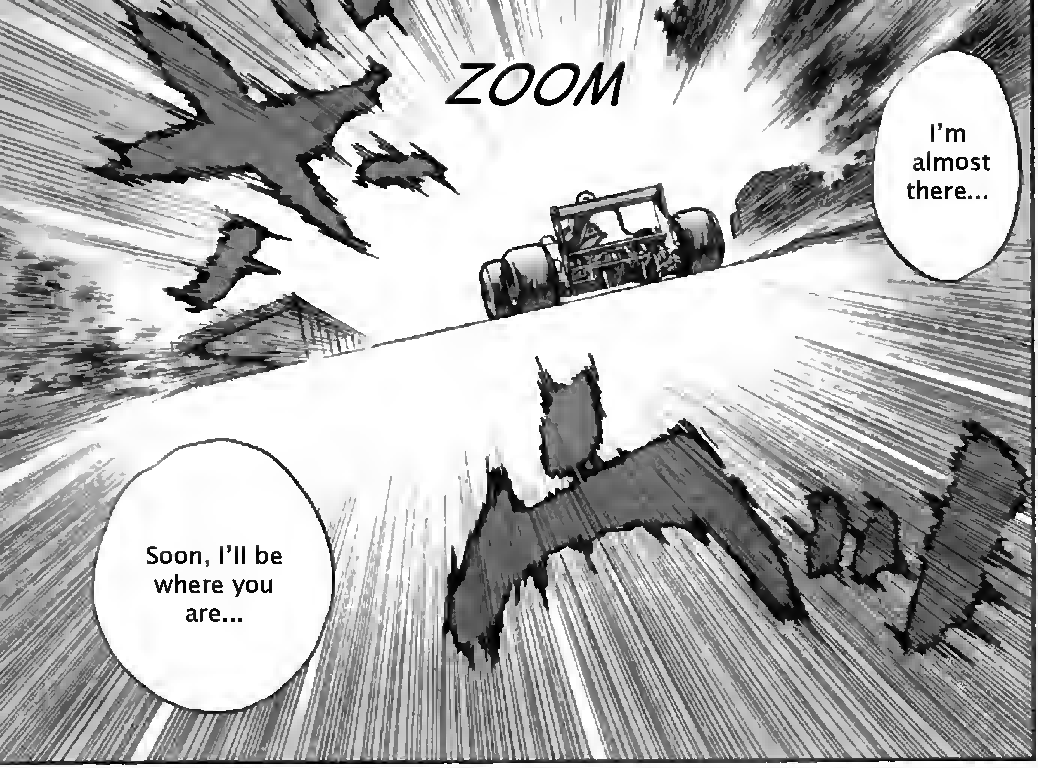

You can overcome this tragedy!
Gunma! Gunma!
Go Gunma! Do it for Japan!
Why must fate torment this young man!?
BRAAHH
Judging from the mishap at the start of the race, the pain in his heart is tragically clear!
BRAAHH
You can do it, Gunma Akagi!

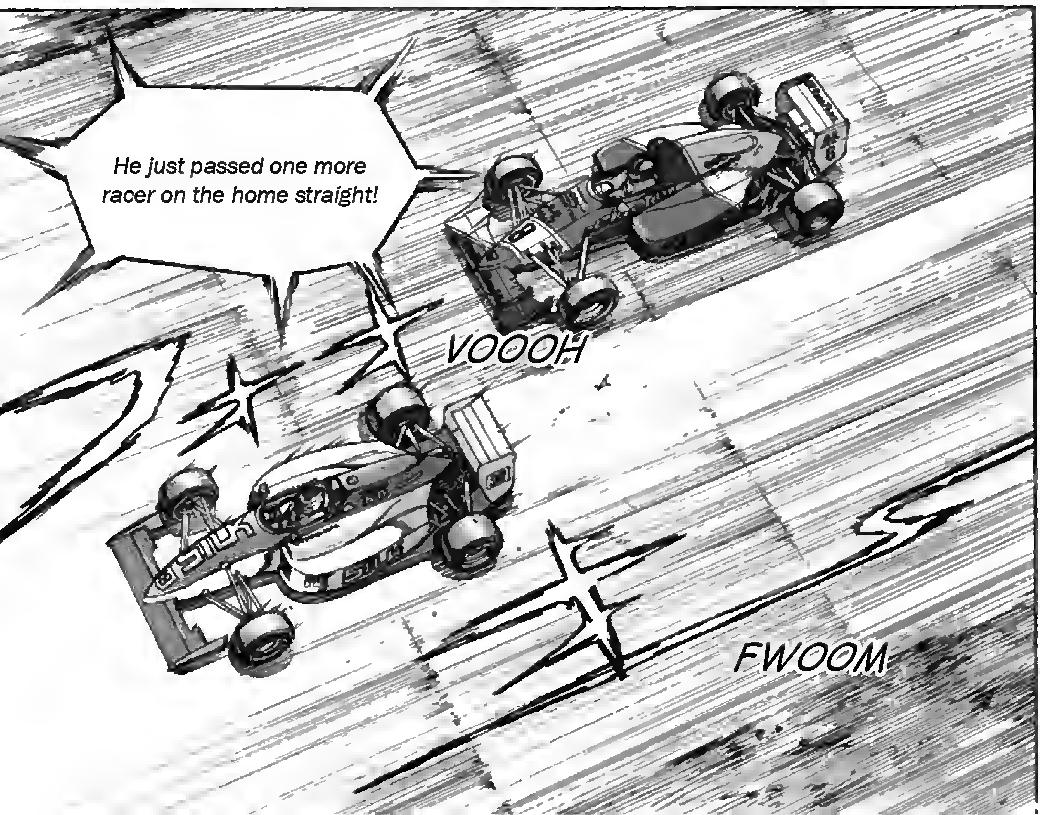
GUNMA
GUNMA
GUNMA
GUNMA

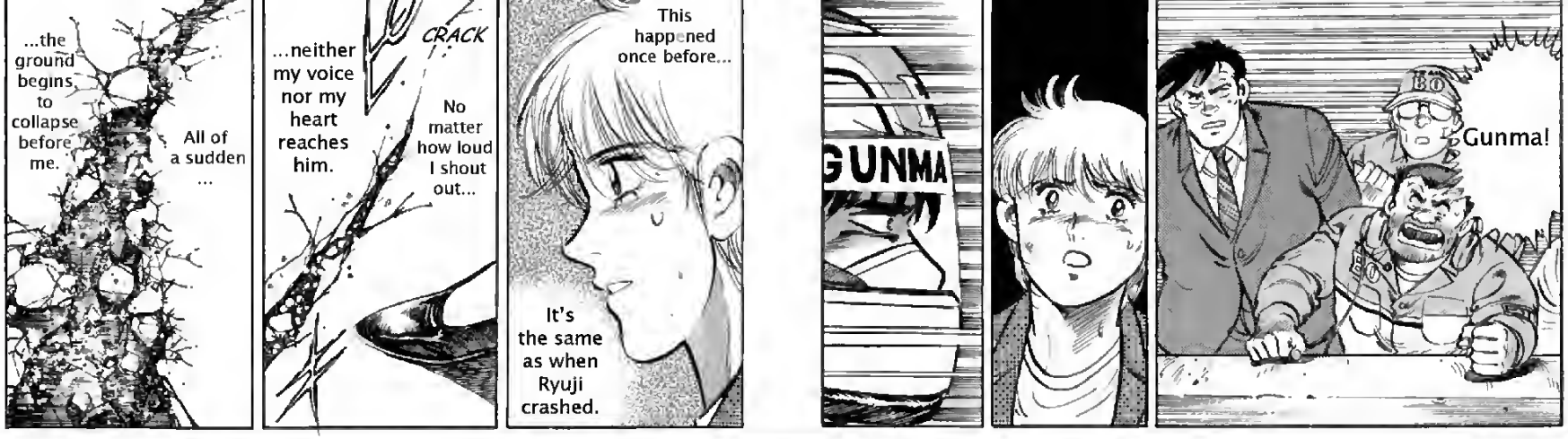

They've set up the perfect stage for him to kill himself on...
GUNMA
GUNMA
GUNMA
GUNMA
Hear that? They're cheering Gunma's name. The announcer got them all hyped up...

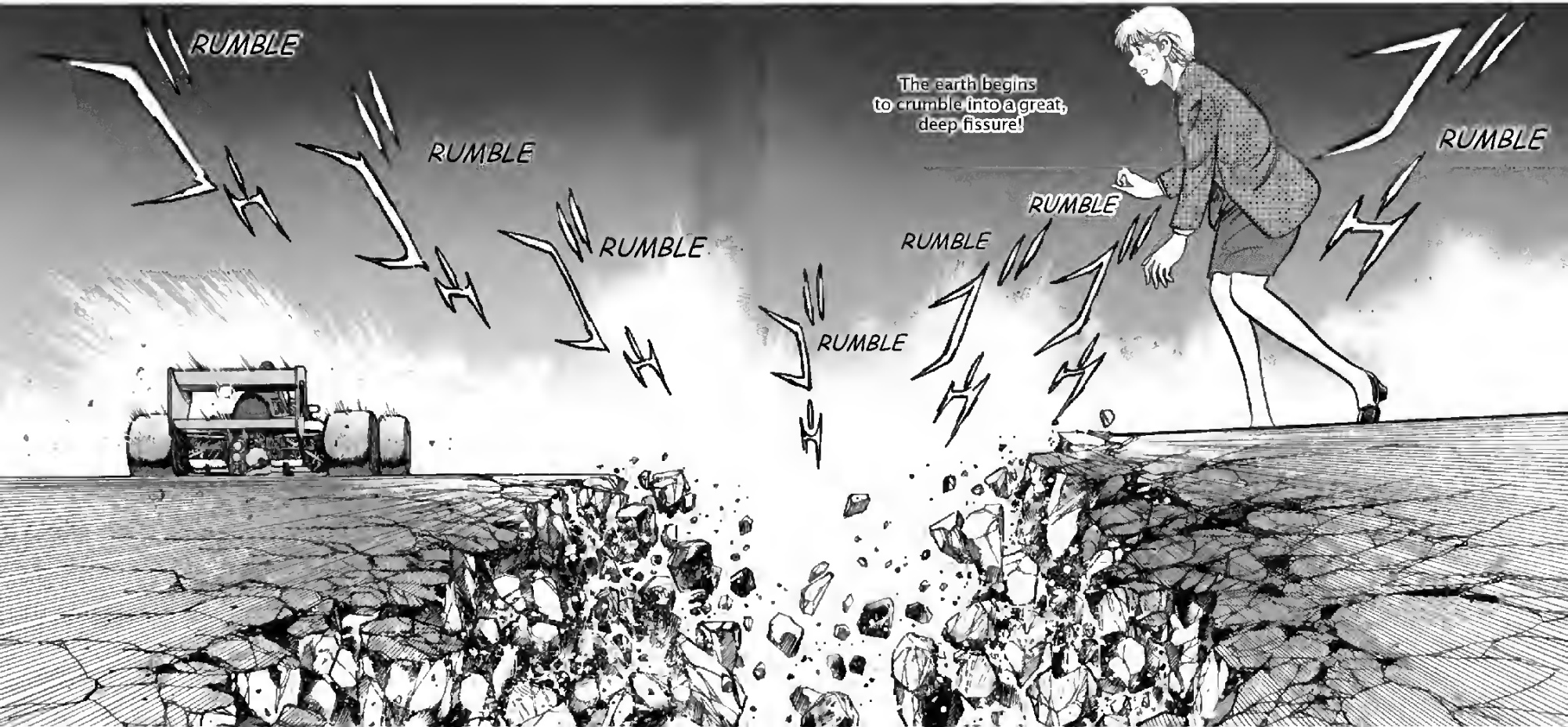
...
You're right. This is really serious!
GRIND
God dammit! We can't just stand by like this!
That's all I can think of, Granny.
Pray, I guess.
...
Is there anything we can do to help, Tamotsu!?
VRROOM
Wait for me, Peabow.


VWOO
Whoa! Gunma Akagi just zipped right past two cars at the final corner!
OOSH
Wait for me...

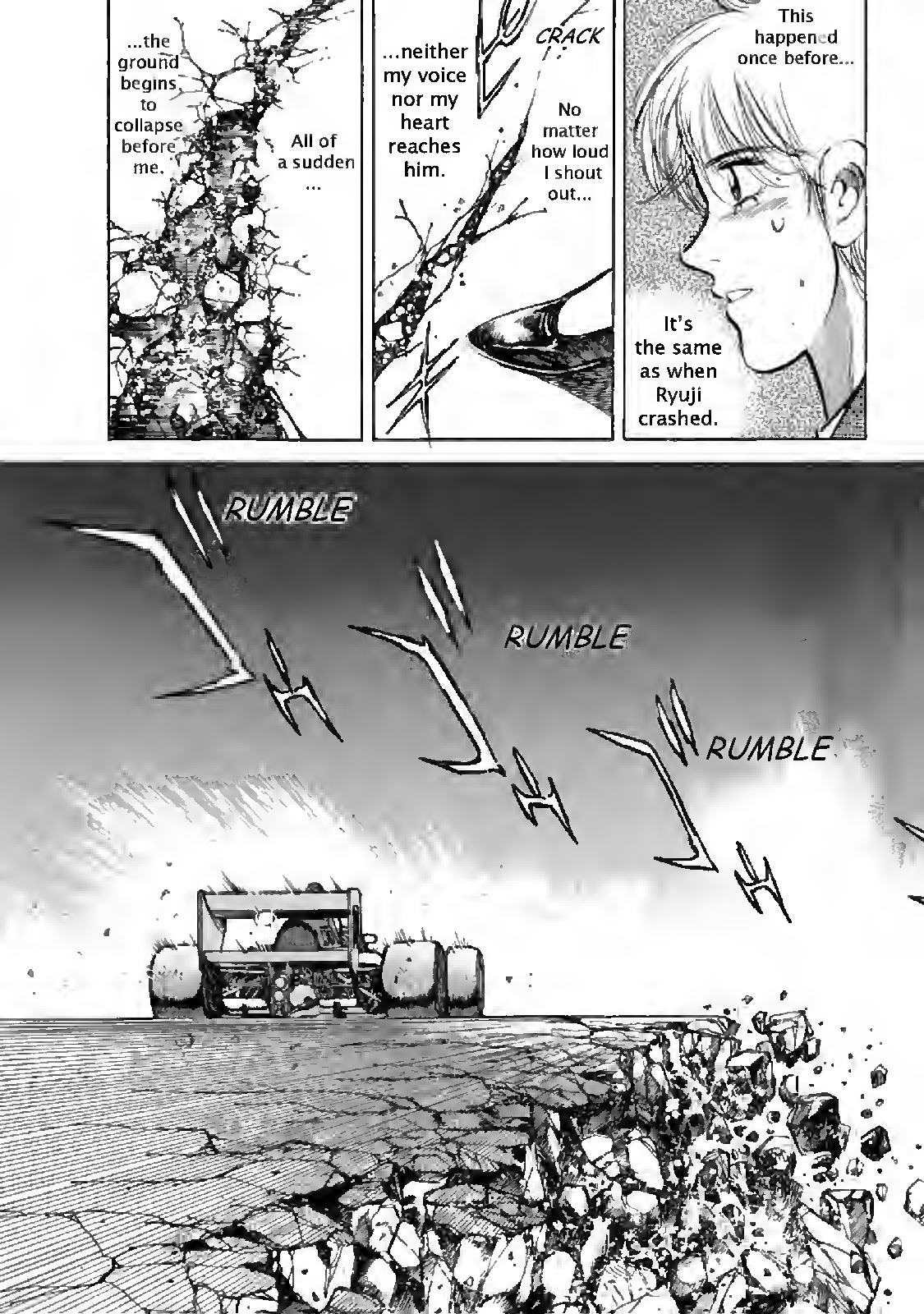

ZOOM
I'm almost there...
Soon, I'll be where you are...


He just passed one more racer on the home straight!
VOOOH
FWOOM


...the ground begins to collapse before me.
All of a sudden ...
...neither my voice nor my heart reaches him.
CRACK
No matter how loud I shout out...
It's the same as when Ryuji crashed.
This happened once before...
GUNMA
Gunma!


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
The earth begins to crumble into a great, deep fissure!

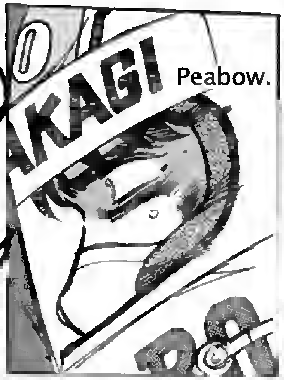
GUNMA
Gunma!
The earth begins to crumble into a great, deep fissure!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

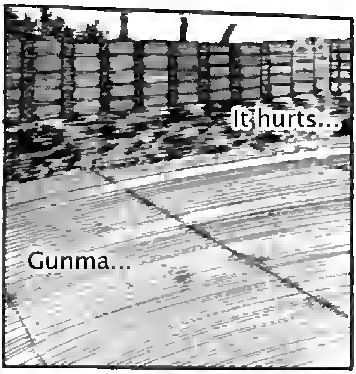

...the ground begins to collapse before me.
All of a sudden ...
...neither my voice nor my heart reaches him.
CRACK
No matter how loud I shout out...
This happened once before...
It's the same as when Ryuji crashed.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

AVIA
PEUGEOT
Gunma...
Gunma...
It hurts...

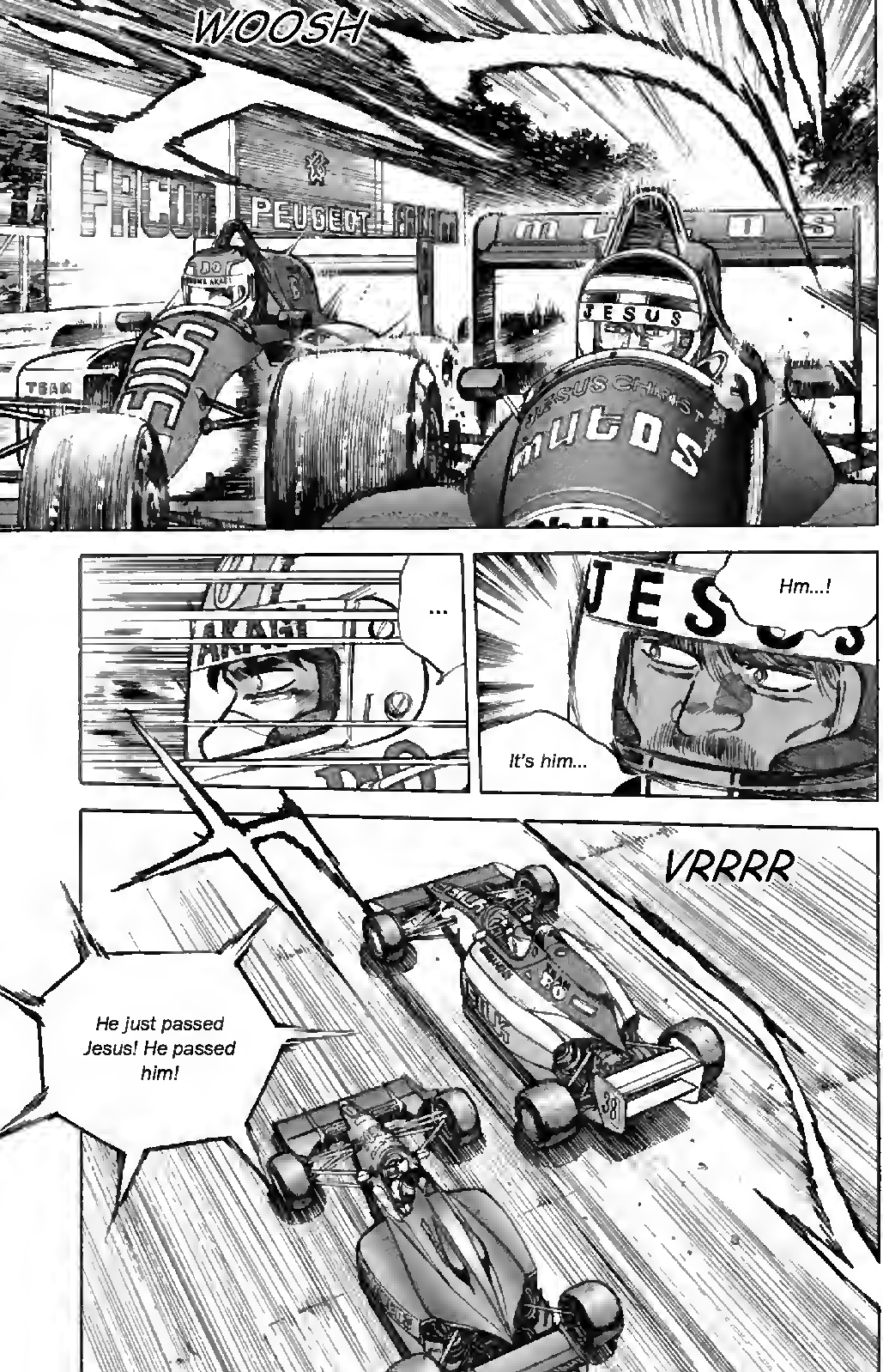
Forgive me... hurts...
GUNMA AKAGI
It really hurt, didn't it, Peabow?

FWOOM

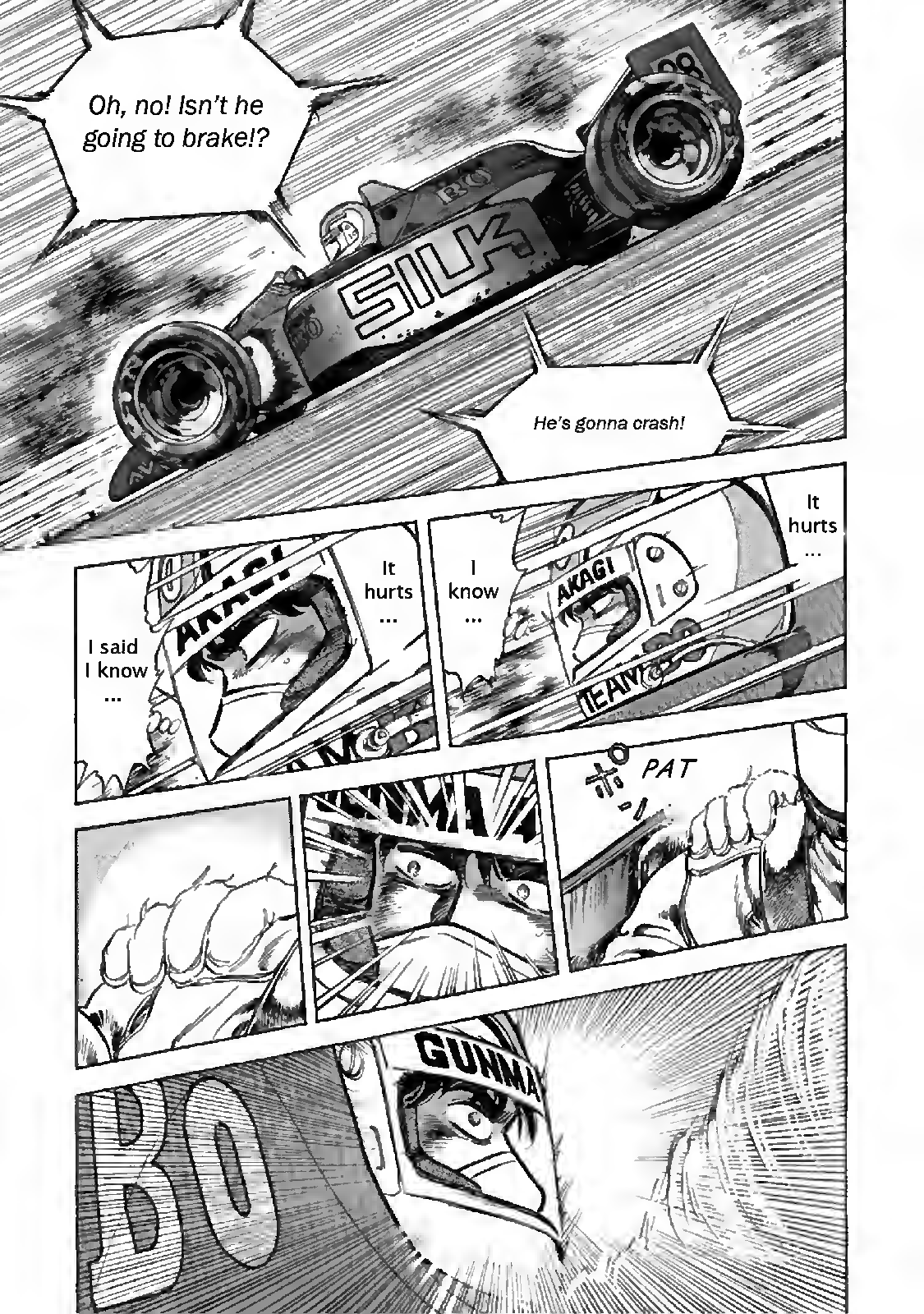

AKAGI
Peabow.


It hurts...
Gunma...

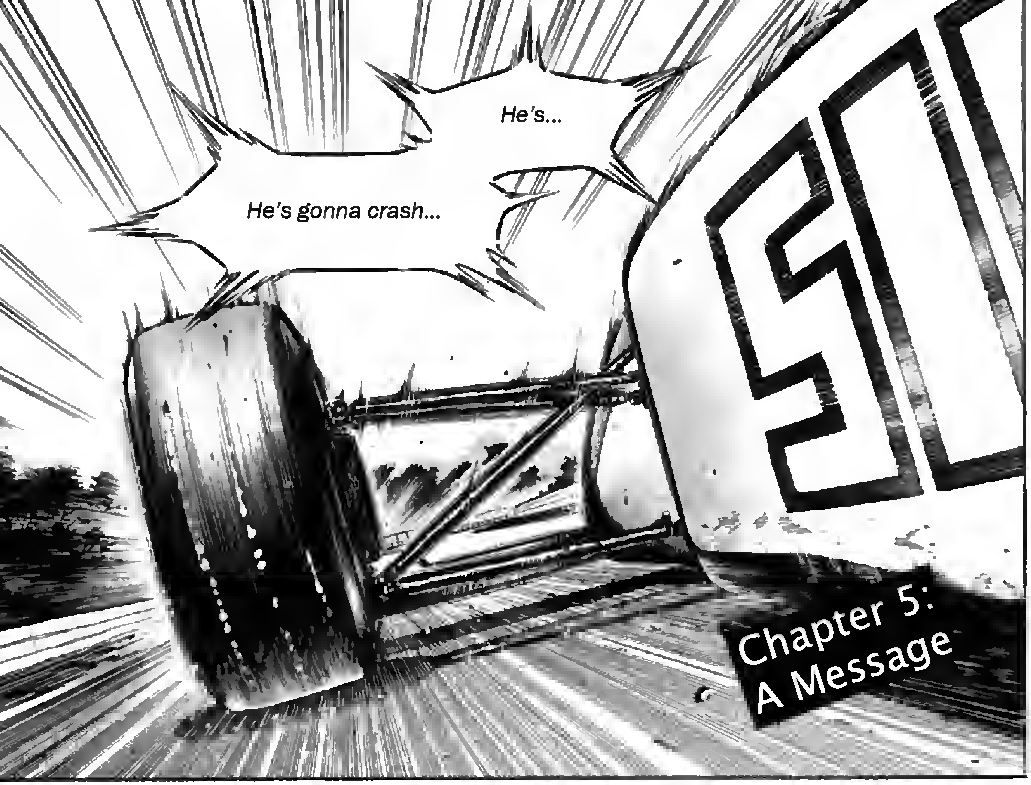
BRAAAHHH


WOOSH
PEUGEOT
JESUS
...
Hm...!
It's him...
VRRRR
He just passed Jesus! He passed him!

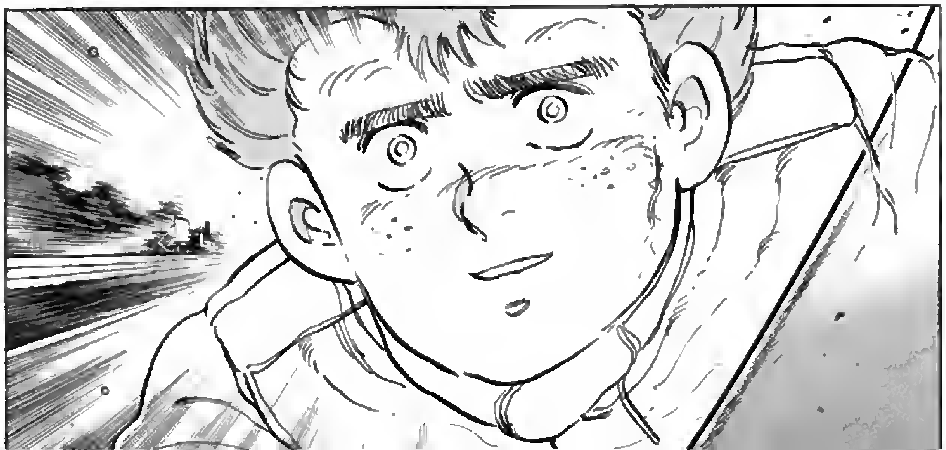
FWOOOSH
He's charging right into the hairpin!
He's too fast!
Wow! Gunma Akagi's speed is astonishing! It's like he sprung out into third place out of the blue!
He passes S. de Sabliere by driving around him and cutting in!
!!
He might be going too fast for his own good!
He's not slowing down! He's going way too fast! He's headed straight for the hairpin bend!
...
Gunma... That's enough...


Oh, no! Isn't he going to brake!?
SILK
He's gonna crash!
AKAGI
I said I know ...
It hurts ...
I know ...
It hurts ...
PAT
GUNMA
BO

TEAM
BO
SILK
TEAM
BO

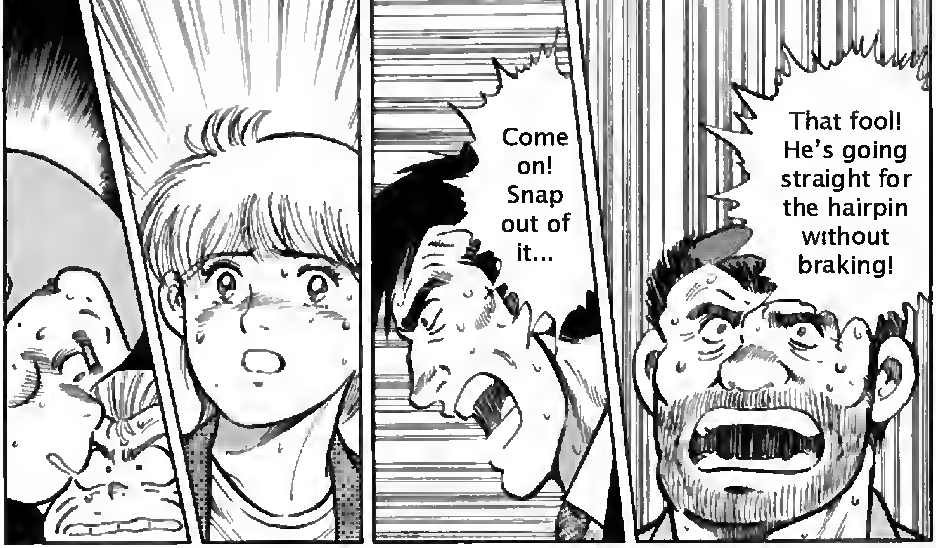

He's...
He's gonna crash...
Chapter 5:
A Message

Peabow...



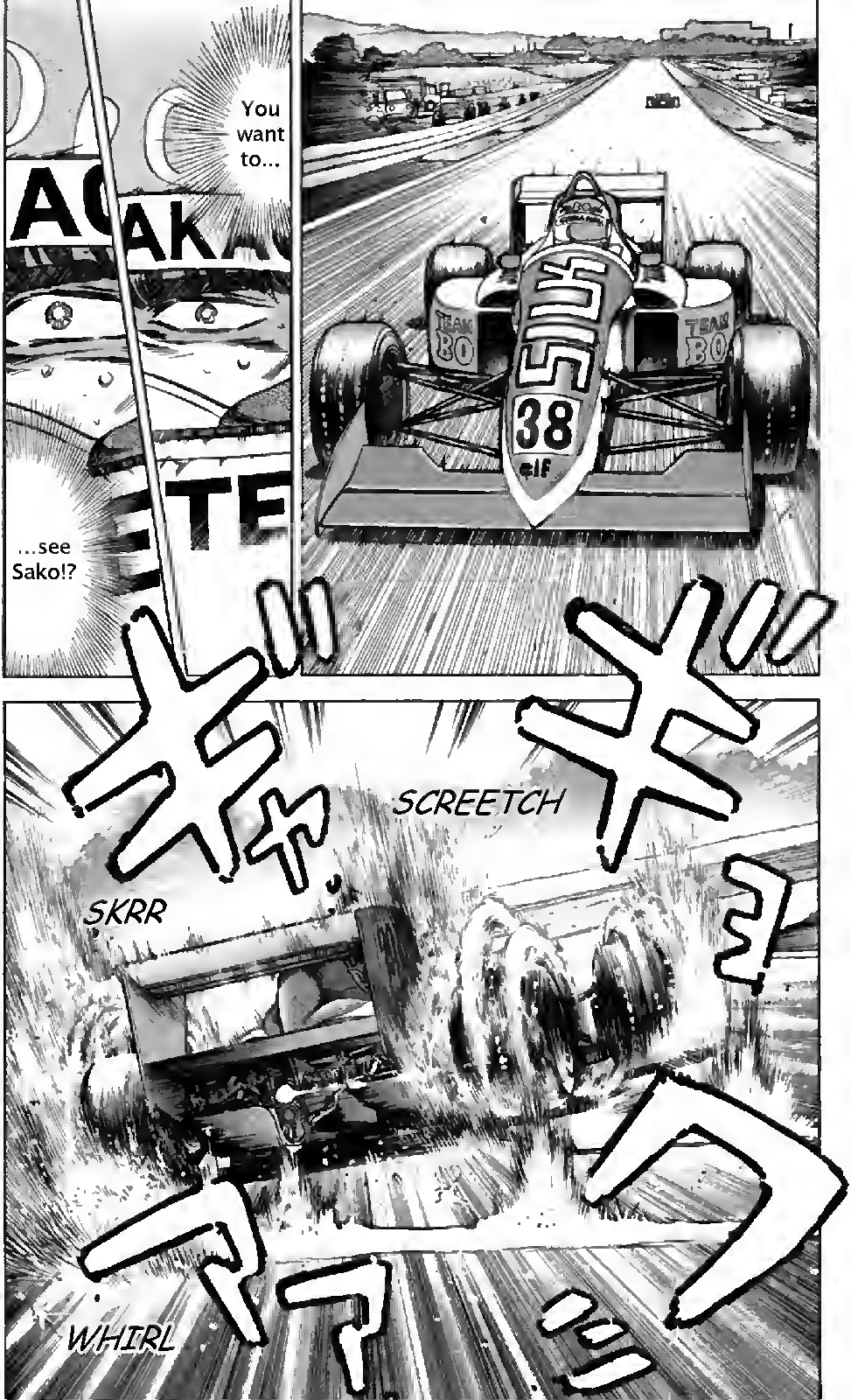
Chapter 5:
A Message

TEAM
BO
SILK
TEAM
BO

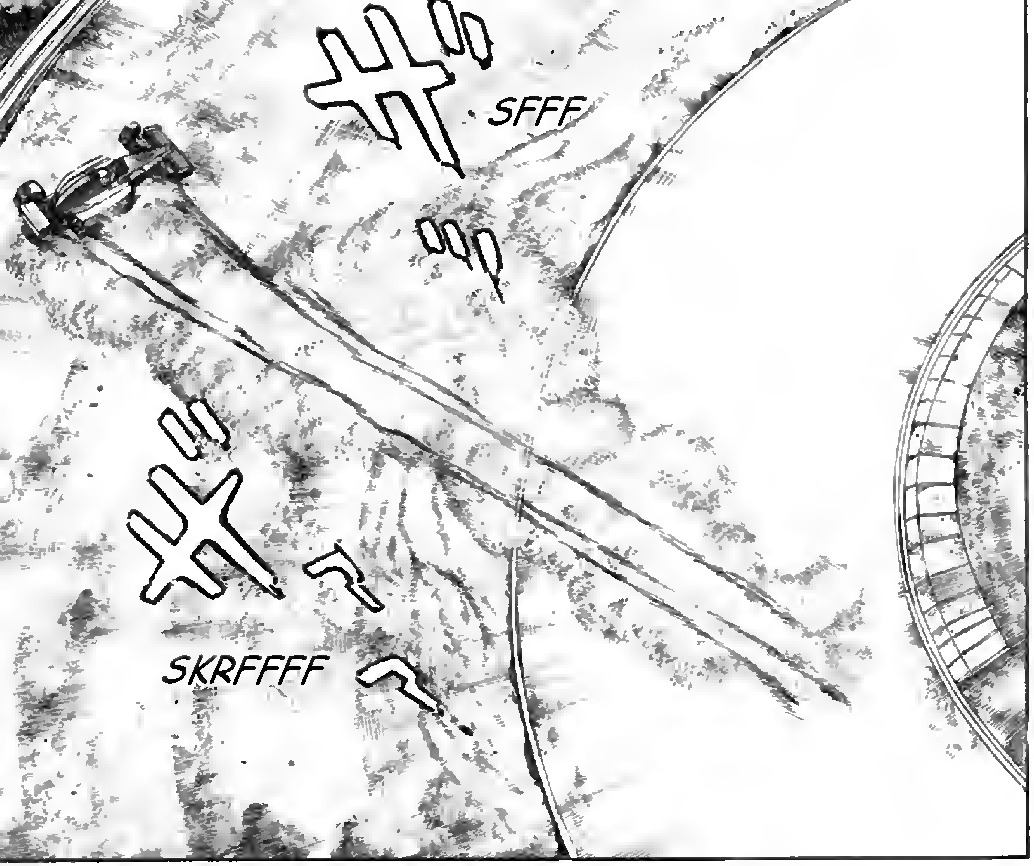

That fool! He's going straight for the hairpin without braking!
Come on! Snap out of it...

Gunma...
It hurts...

!!
GUNMAAK
I want to see Sako, Gunma...
I want... I want to...
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM

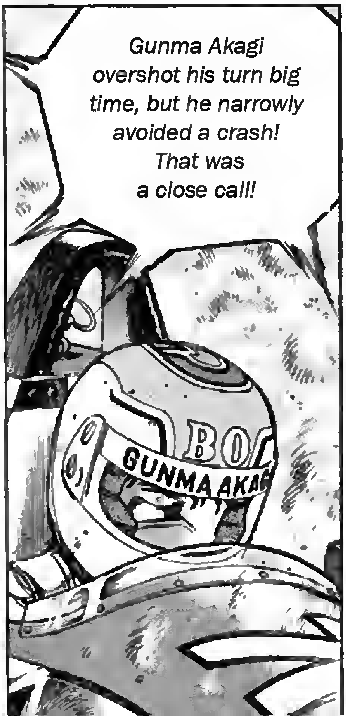

You want to...
...see Sako!?
38
elf
TEAM BO
SCREETCH
SKRR
WHIRL

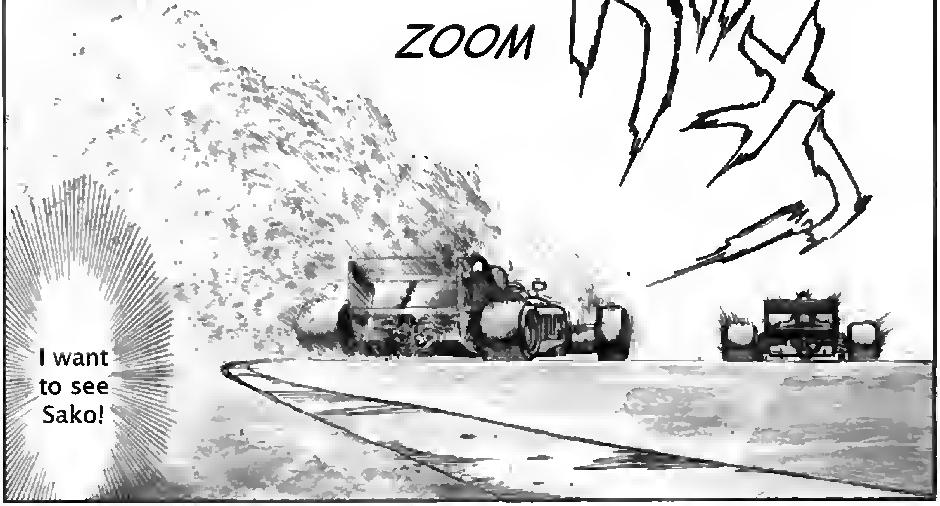
SKRR
KRRRRR
SKRRRT
TEAM
BO
SILK
He just hit the brakes!
He hit his brakes just in time!

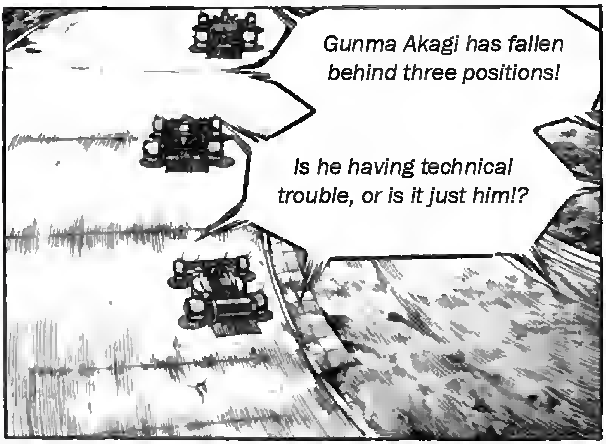

SFFF
SKRFFFF

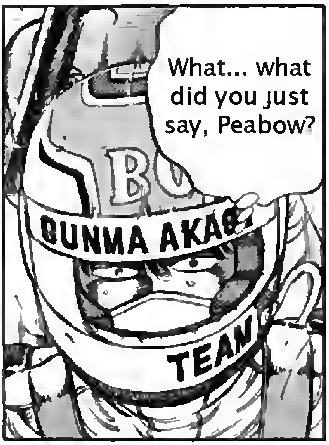
Oh, man. Whew...
H...hey!

He goes straight back on course!
38
TEAM
BO
SILK


Gunma Akagi overshot his turn big time, but he narrowly avoided a crash! That was a close call!!
BO
GUNMA AKAGI

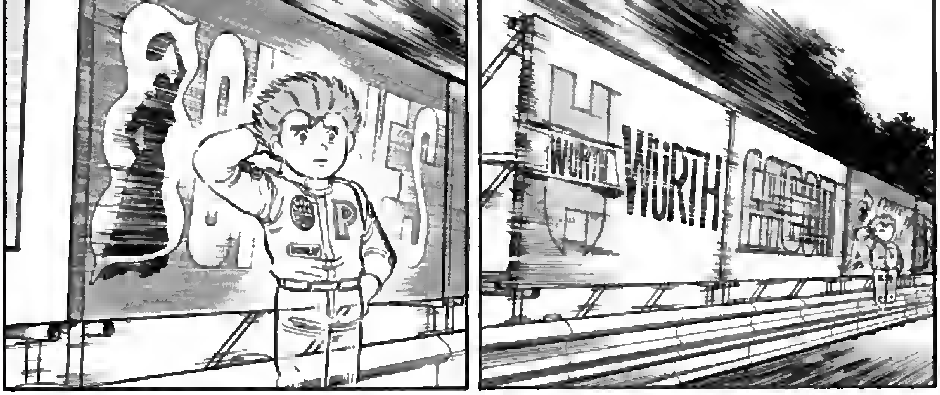

ZOOM
I want to see Sako!

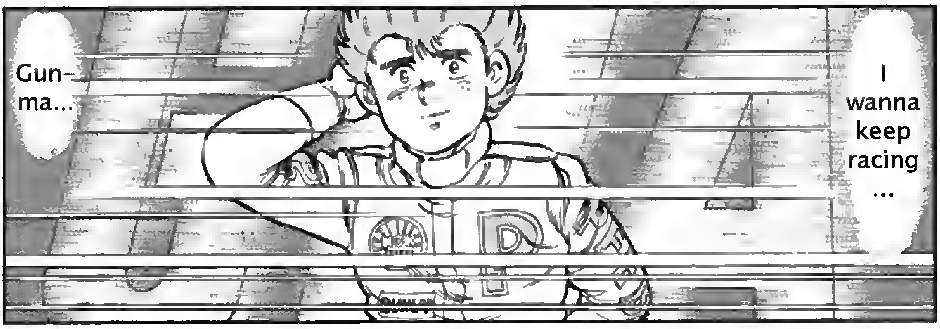

Gunma Akagi has fallen behind three positions!
Is he having technical trouble, or is it just him!?


What... what did you just say, Peabow?
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM

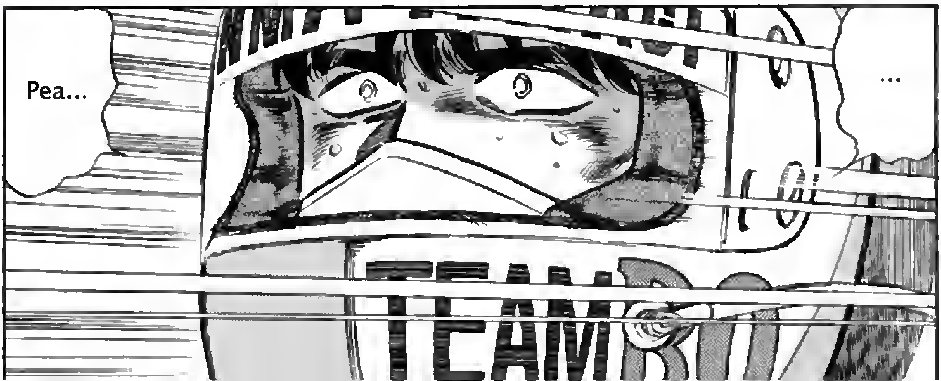
What did you just say, Peabow!?

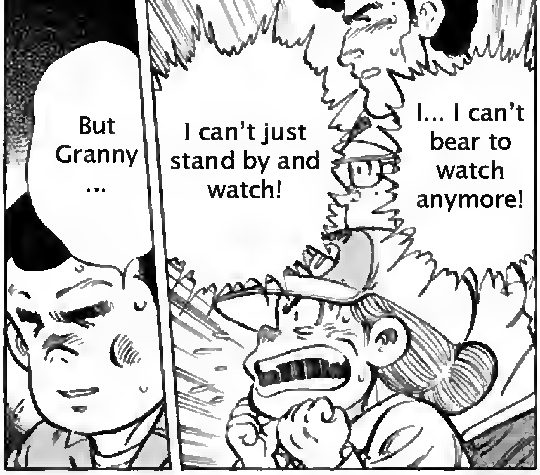
VRRRR

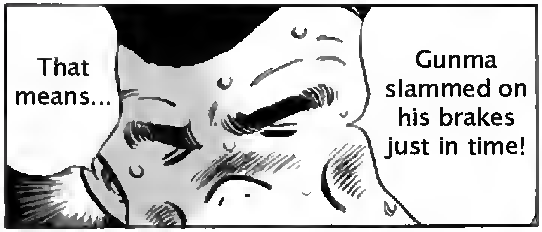

WÜRTH
WÜRTH

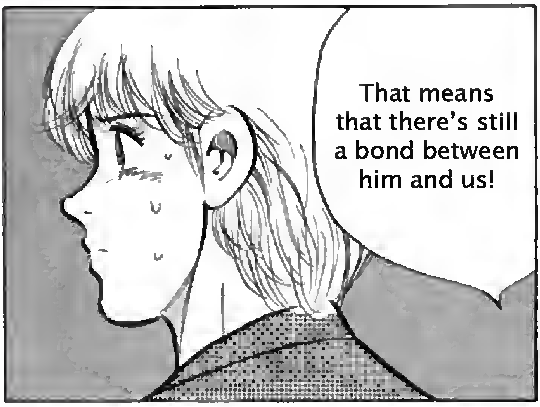

Gun-ma...
I wanna keep racing ...

!!
GUNMA AKAGI
WÜRTH FALCON

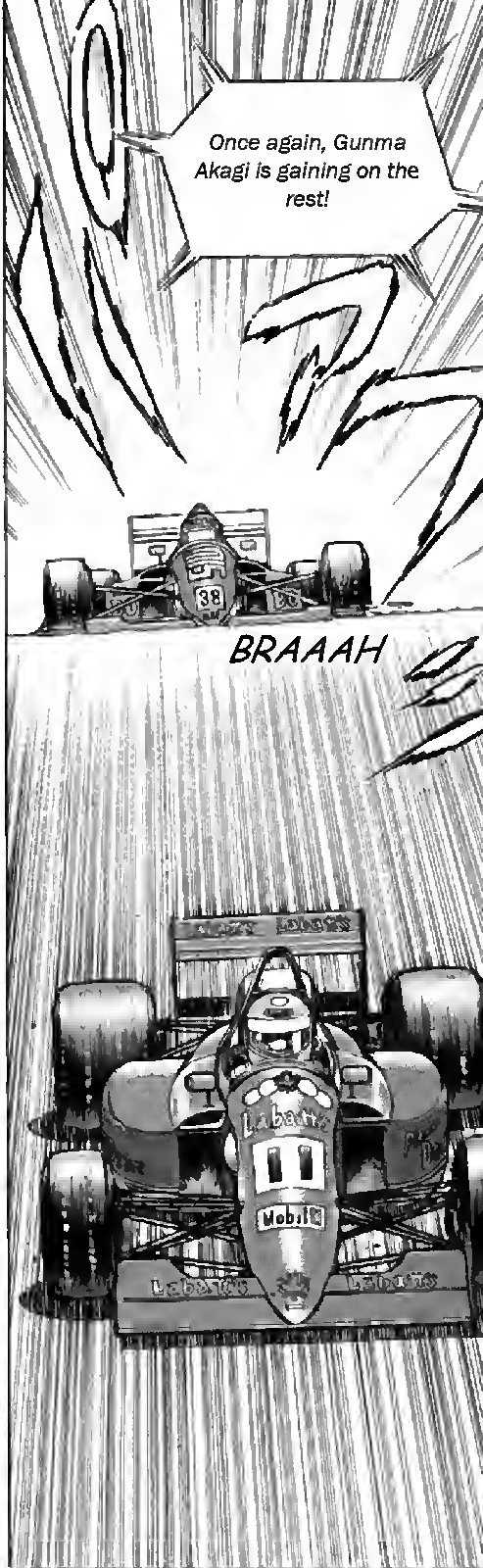

Pea...
...
TEAM


But Granny ...
I can't just stand by and watch!
I... I can't bear to watch anymore!

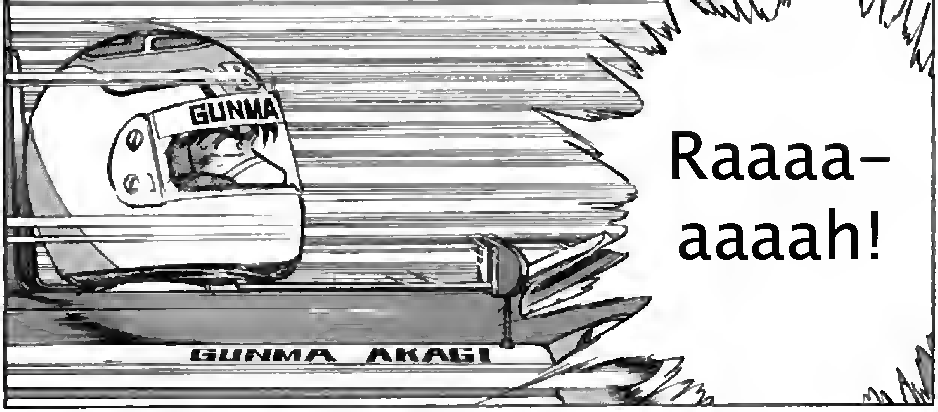

That means...
Gunma slammed on his brakes just in time!


That means that there's still a bond between him and us!

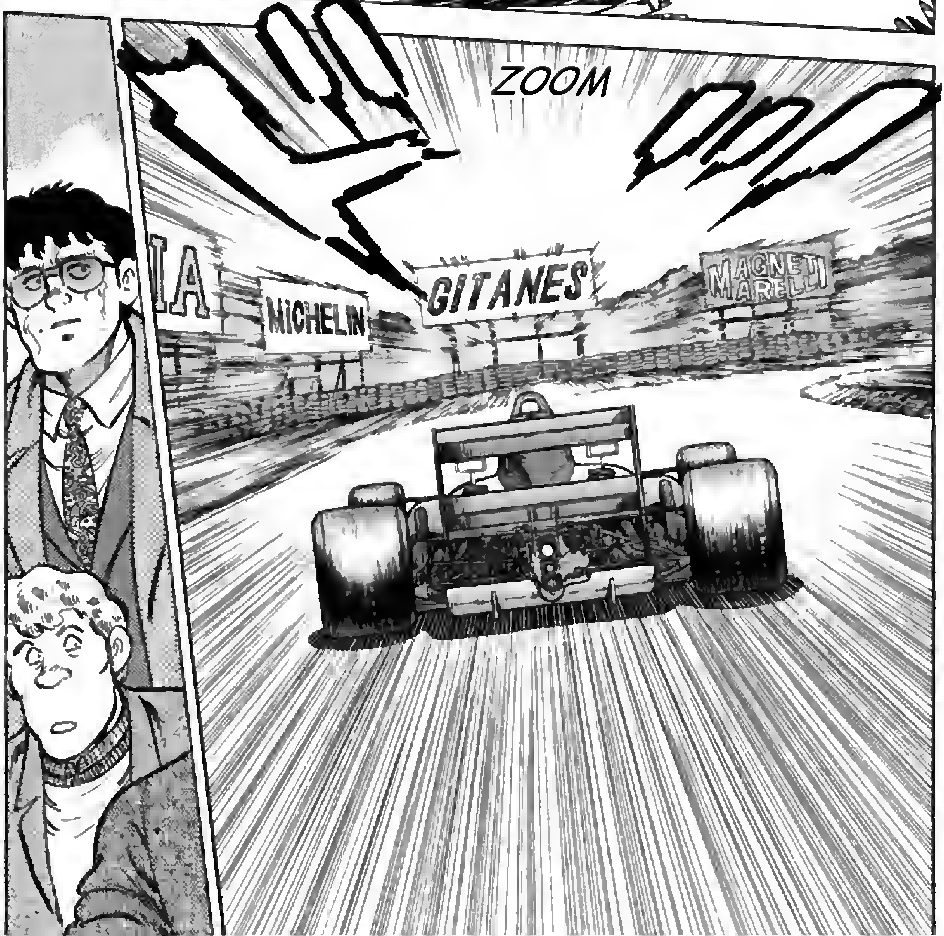
ZOOM

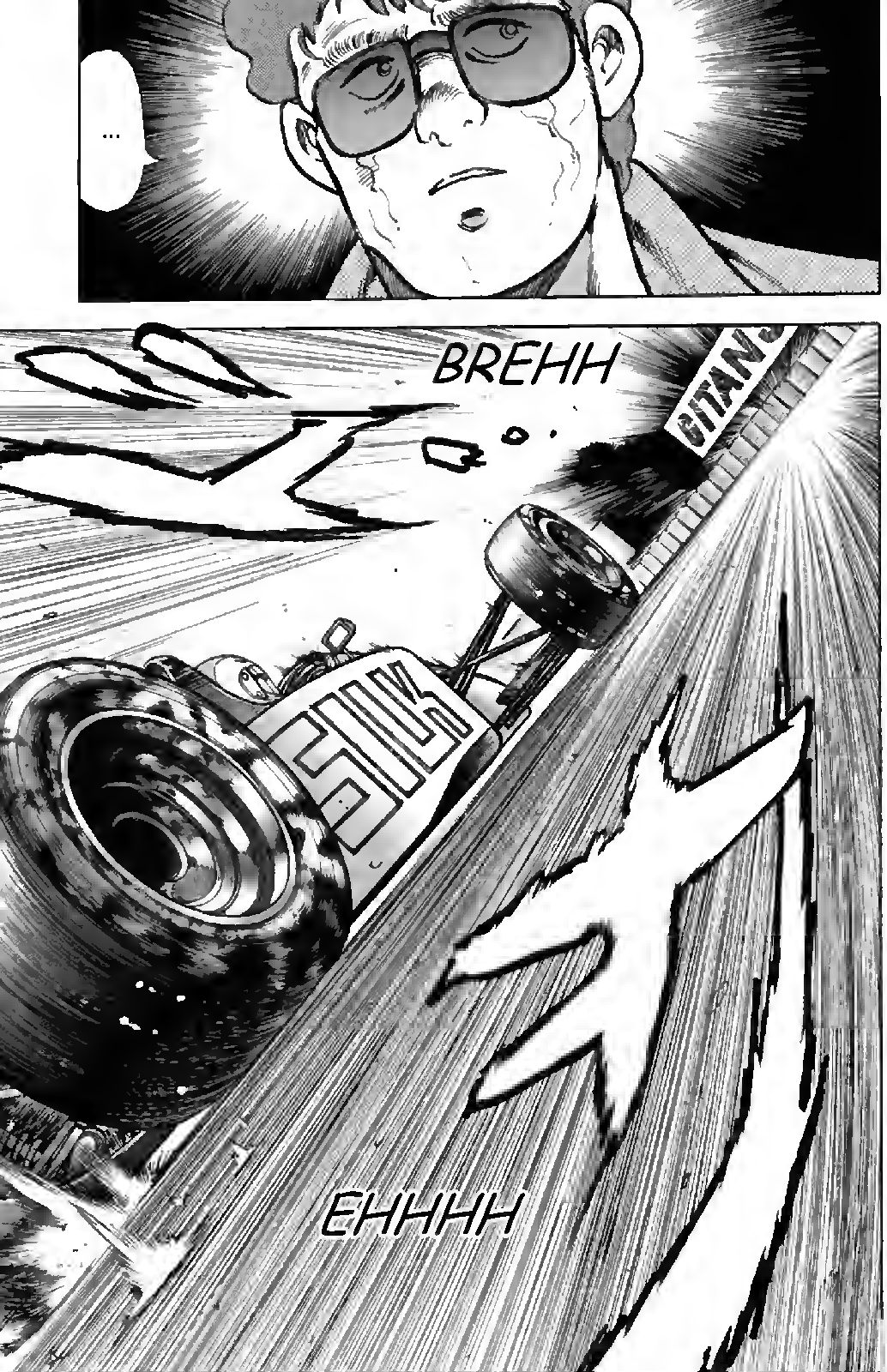

Once again, Gunma Akagi is gaining on the rest!
38
BRAAAH
Mobil

GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM BO
I'm freakin' delu-sional...
Heh...
This is stupid...
...and now you're coming up with these delusions so you can forgive yourself...
Got cold feet, Gunma?
You killed him...
That wa the last thing he tried to tell me before he died!
...that he was hurting. Loud and clear.
...he told me...
Before he died...
...is nothing short of a miracle!
To be alive...
To live...
Kuroi...

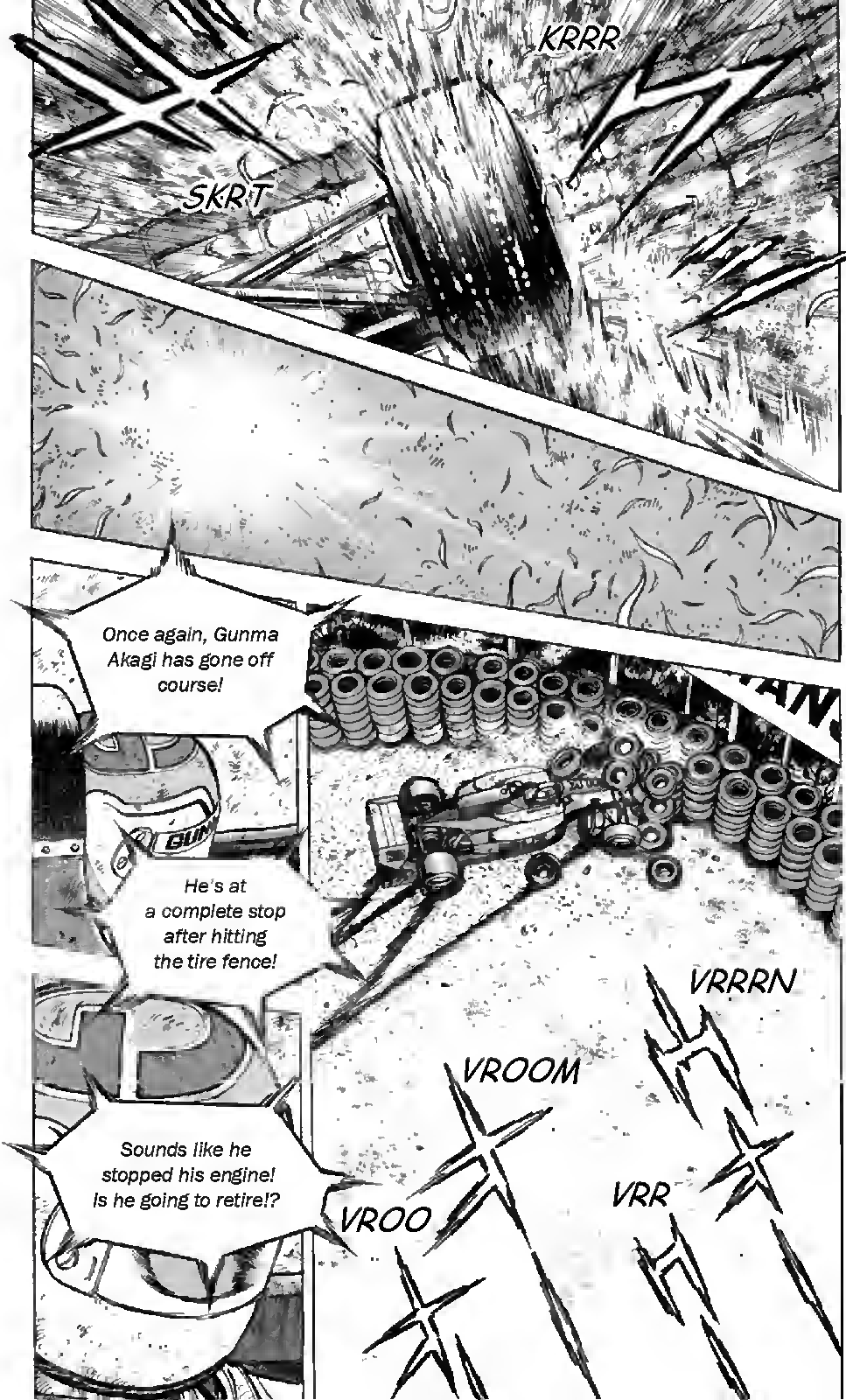

GUNMA
GUNMA AKAGI
Raaaa-
aaaah!

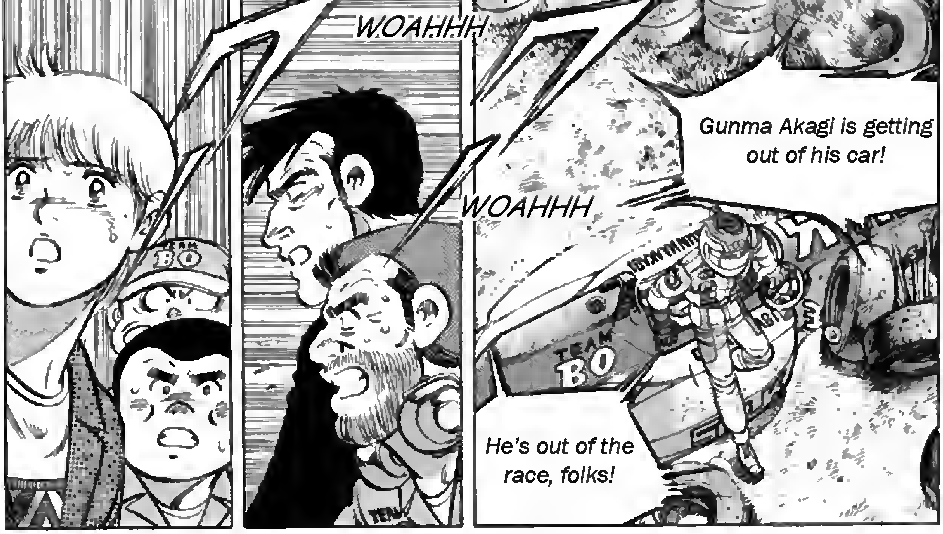
Peabow!

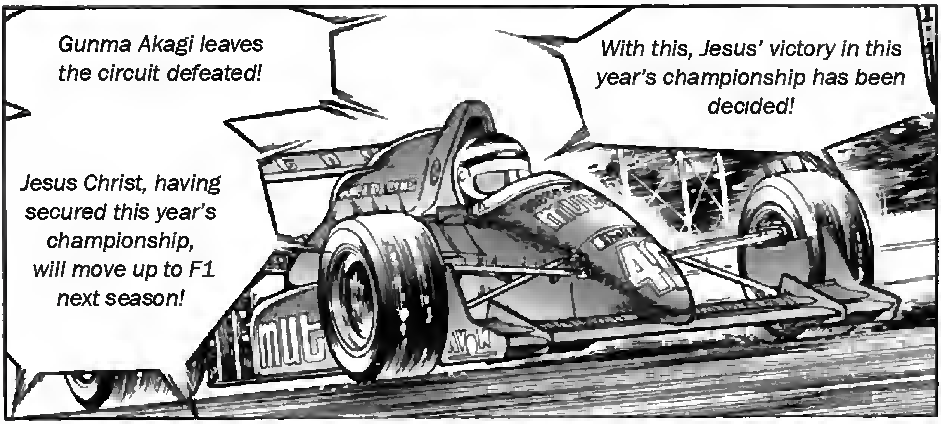

ZOOM
MICHELIN
GITANES
MAGNETI
MARELLI

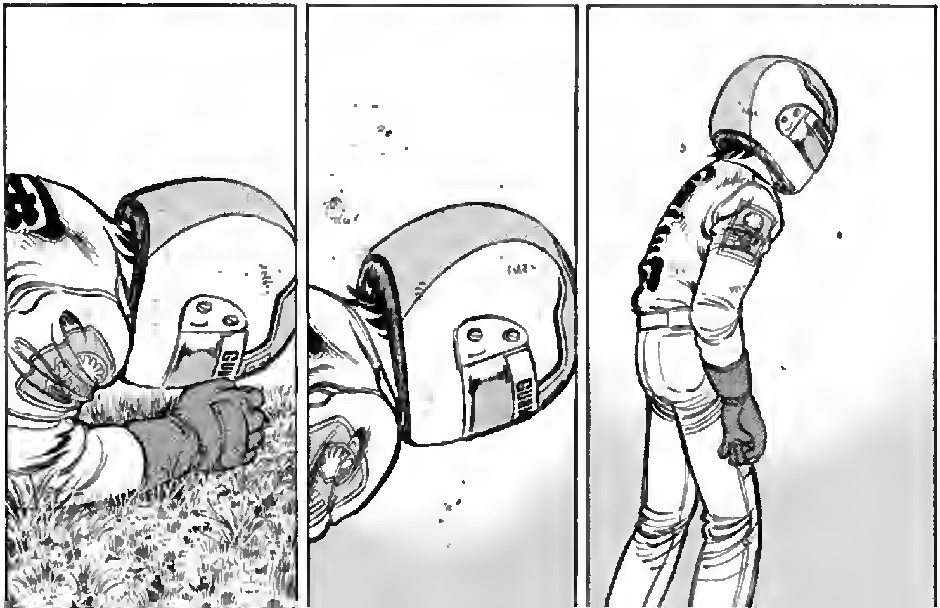

...
BREHH
GIZAN
EHHHH

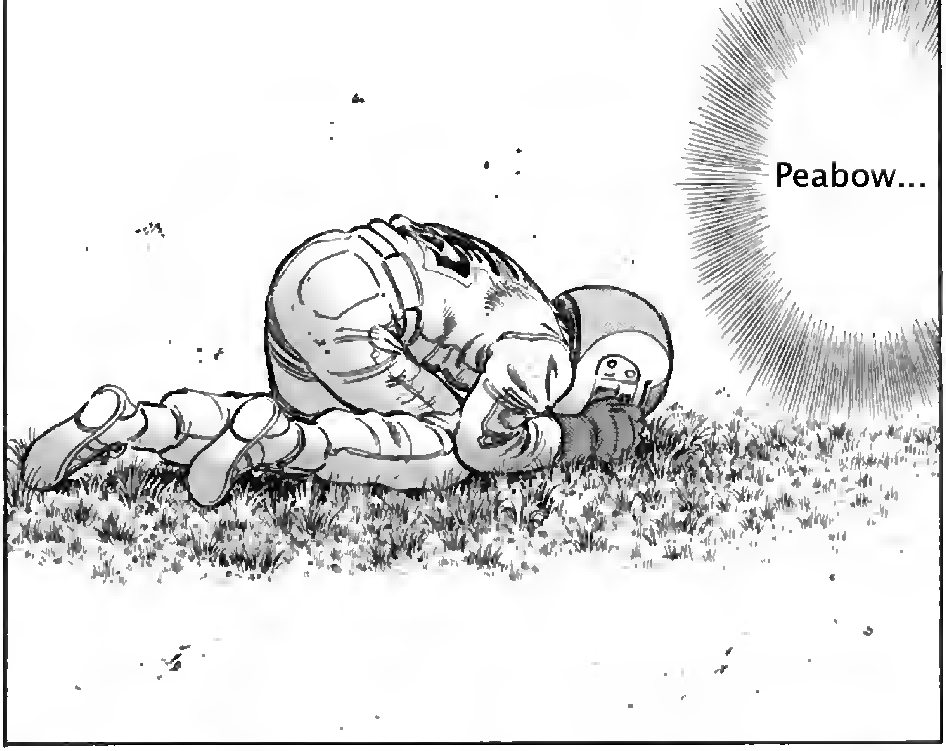
GITANES
VROOOOOOH
GITANES
Gunma...
Gunma
...
I want to see you keep racing, Gunma...
I want to see you...


KRRR
SKRT
Once again, Gunma Akagi has gone off course!
He's at a complete stop after hitting the tire fence!
Sounds like he stopped his engine! Is he going to retire!?
VRRRN
VROOM
VRR
VROO


WOAHHH
WOAHHH
Gunma Akagi is getting out of his car!
He's out of the race, folks!


Gunma Akagi leaves the circuit defeated!
With this, Jesus' victory in this year's championship has been decided!
Jesus Christ, having secured this year's championship, will move up to F1 next season!




Peabow...

WOO
WOO
WOO
WOO
TEAM

Then I'll...
...just have to kill you myself...
Tsk...
Man- aged to escape death, huh?
WOO
WOO

GITANES
WOOOO

1991

February 3
Aomori gubernatorial election
February 24
By-election for the House of Councillors in the Aomori electoral district

In both elections, proponents for the construction of the nuclear fuel cycle facility in Rokkasho Village, Aomori Prefecture (including a uranium enrichment plant for generating nuclear power, reprocessing plant for used fuel, and a storage plant for low-level radioactive waste) won successive elections.

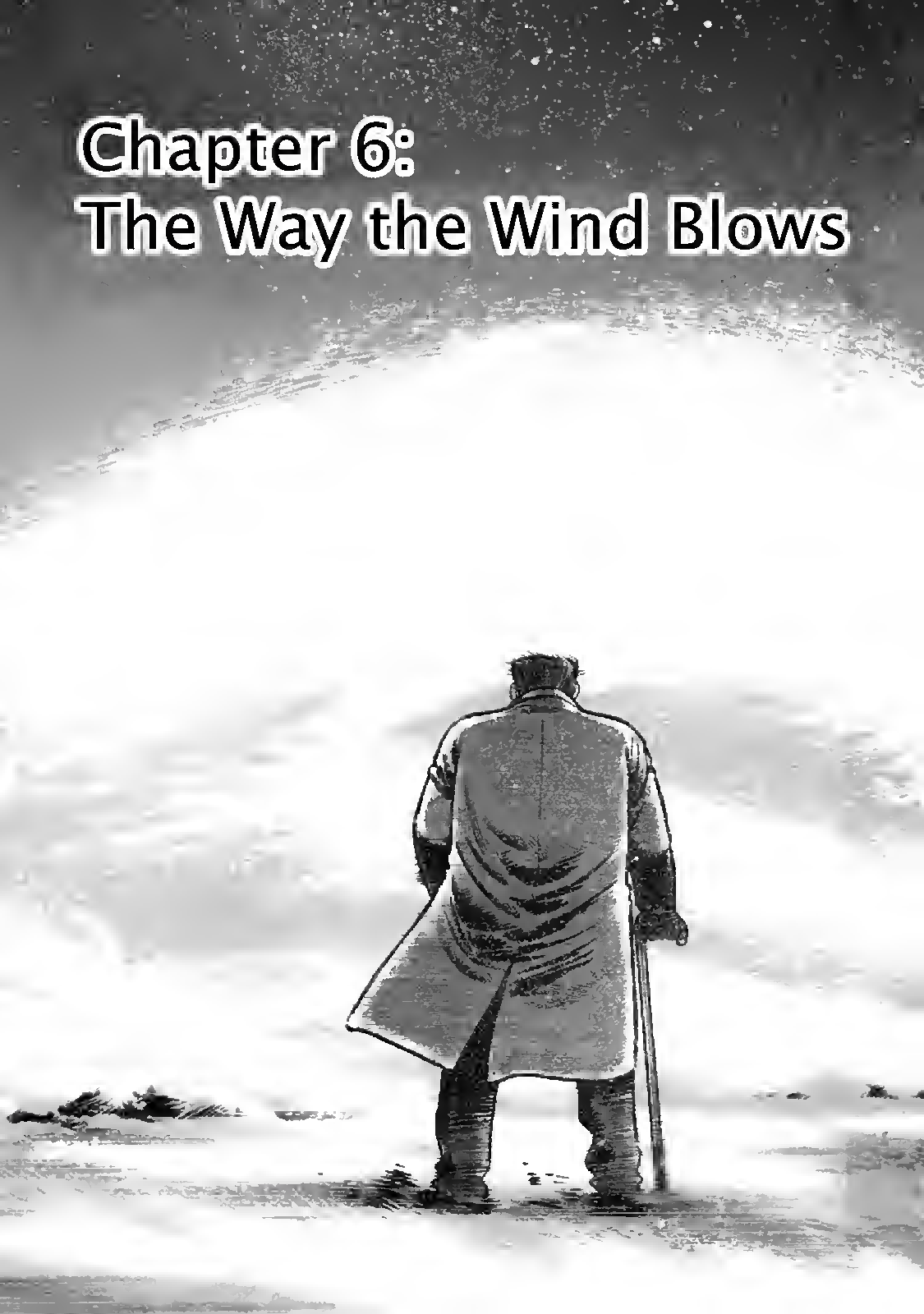
February 9
For the first time in Japan, a guillotine break of a steam generator nearly caused a nuclear meltdown at Reactor 2 of the Mihama Nuclear Power Plant in Fukui Prefecture.

That winter, the Tohoku and the Sea of Japan regions saw record snowfalls due to a cold air mass from the Asian mainland. Freezing winds roared day after day.

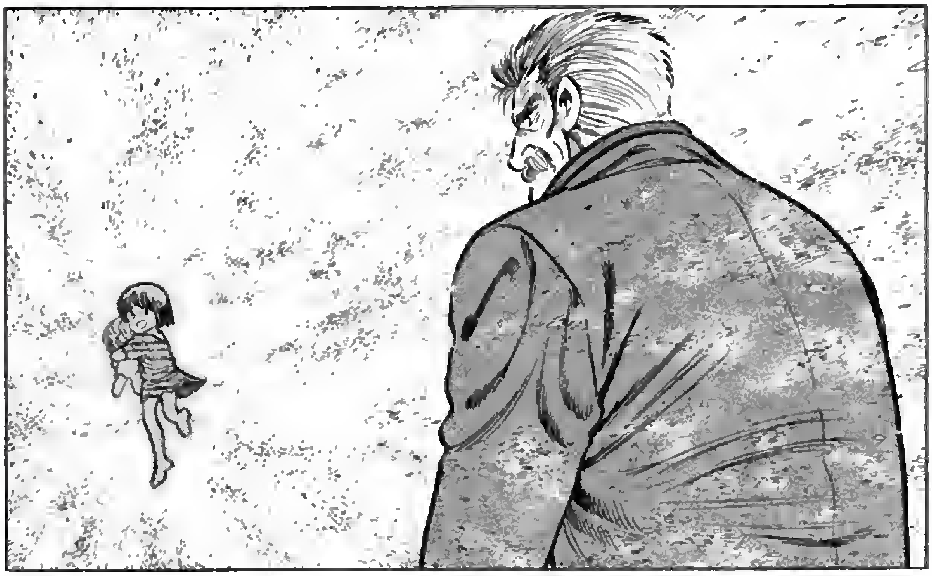
Chapter 6: The Way the Wind Blows

Chapter 6:
The Way the Wind Blows

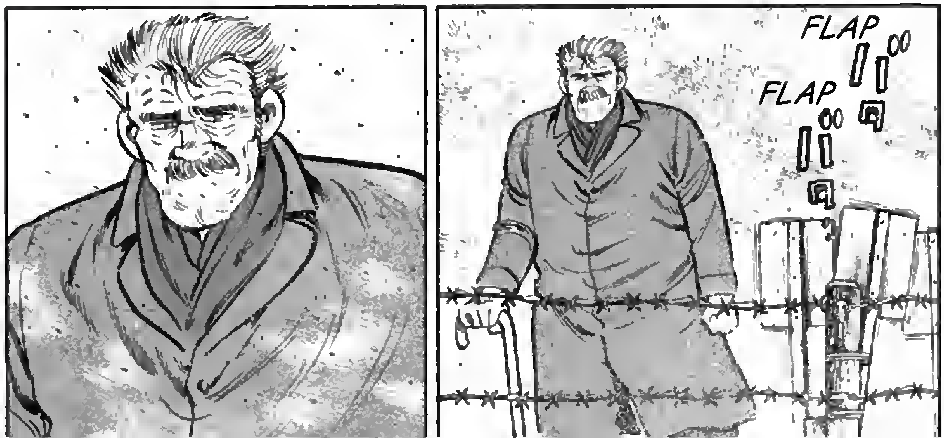
Chapter 6:
The Way the Wind Blows



HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
FWOOSH

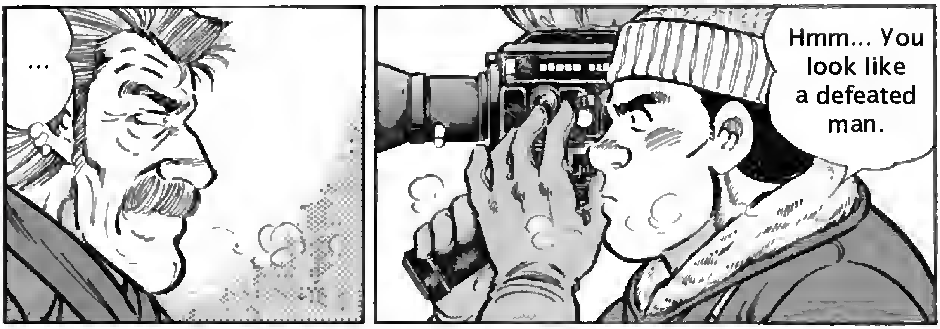


Stop the construction of the nuclear fuel cycle facility! Stop poisoning our land! Save our children and grandchildren!



Are you Mr. Akagi by any chance?
I'm just an old man now. Who are you?
Nobody. I'm just filming a documentary...
...
I thought it was you! The head of the Akagi Group... You came up with that relocation project.
A... documentary?
Yup.
About this land, its people, and the Japanese. What will they toss out? What will they choose instead?
I'm filming what I see to leave as a witness to history in the making...

...in your eyes?
What... do I look like...
I'll film that face of yours, too!

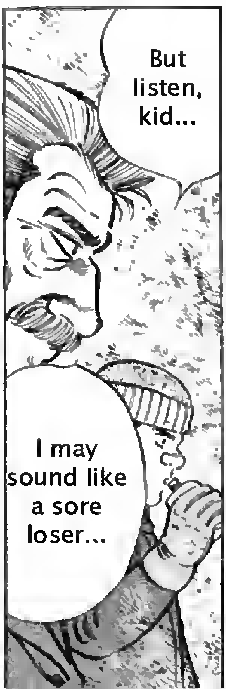

...
Hmm... You look like a defeated man.

Wanna take a sip? It'll warm you up.
Dammit... I'm out of film.
Blech.
Yeah. Radioactive whiskey.
What is this, whis-key?
Cheers.
It's just an independent production, anyway. I don't have any money.

FWOOOOH
Ha ha... It was a joke. Just a joke.

A defeated man, huh?

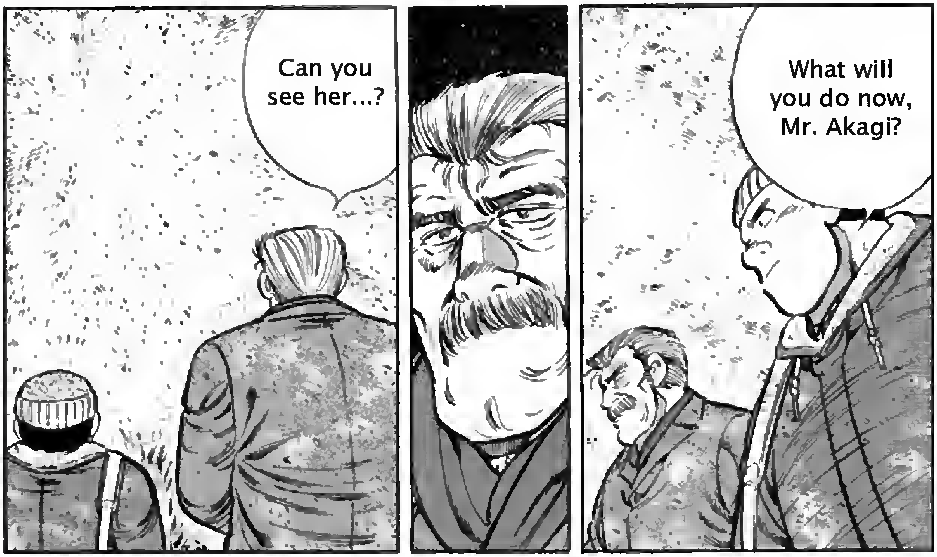
...but in the game of life, I haven't lost just yet!


But listen, kid...
I may sound like a sore loser...

It's true that I was defeated in the game of business...
...and in the world of politics...

I understand completely.
No, I get it.
Granted, that may be hard for you to understand.
If you consider the nature of politics... or maybe it's just a consequence of the Gulf War, but the world is starting to turn to sources of energy other than oil.
It's true that in this round of elections, the pro-nuclear energy goons won.
Everyone who grew up on this land understands that feeling.
...how do we face this monster we call "civilization"? How do we coexist with it?
But question of what is truly important to us... as human beings, each and every one of us...
Individuals don't "lose." People are just starting to think... to act... and it's not going to end any time soon. That's why I film.
And it's not as if they've lost. Far from it.
There are still plenty of us who are deeply concerned with these matters.

I'm not saying we should abandon civilization... I'm saying let's find a way to coexist.
That's why man can't lose.
Man created civilization.


Can you see her...?
What will you do now, Mr. Akagi?

Coexist... with her...!

?

Take it. Consider it a contribution. This is all I can do for now...
What's this?
Let's meet again some-time.
It's fine.
But...
FWOOOOSH

赤木グループ相談役
赤木総一郎氏 失踪!!
家族から捜索願い
グループ総合移転計画の中止、衆議院選の挫折、現役引退
度重なる苦難に傷心の末の彷徨!?
Akagi Group Adviser
Soichiro Akagi Disappears Without a Trace!
Family requests police search
Group relocation projects comes to an abrupt end,
the run for the lower house ends in failure,
retired from the scene
What is at the end of the tunnel in this series of misfortune and grief!?
揺れる赤木グループ
元役員 田川辰次郎容疑者の逮捕に続く重大事!
トップ役員笠井氏も行方不明
Akagi Group Begins to Topple
following the arrest of former Group executive Tatsujiro Tagawa! Top executive Sakai has also gone missing
元戦友 赤木、笠井両氏死出の道行きか!?
Is this the end for war comrades Akagi and Kasai!?

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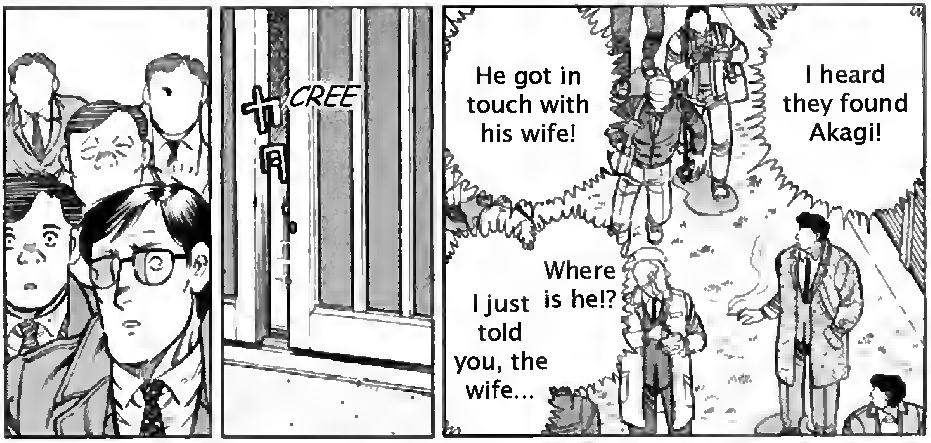
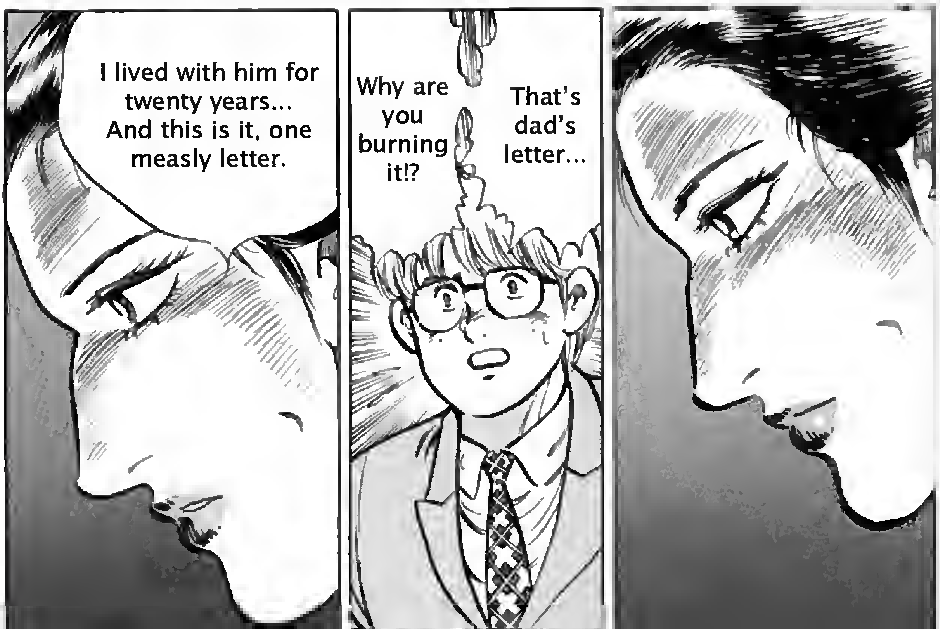
YAK
YAK


CREEE
He got in touch with his wife!
I heard they found Akagi!
Where is he!?
I just told you, the wife...

I would like to apologize for all the disturbance caused in behalf of my husband.
Members of the press, thank you for gathering here today.
When did he get in contact with you!?
Do you know where he is!?

So tell us, where is he then!?
I now know where he is. I've withdrawn my request for the police search this morning.
Yesterday, I received a letter from him.
Whoa, hold on...
Tell us! Where is he!? With a woman!?
All I came to tell you is that he has been found, and that he's safe. And to apologize for the disturbance.
I am not at liberty to say.
That's all I can say.
...somewhere far, far away.
He's...
He's...

SLAM
IRRK
It's obviously trouble with some mistress. That's why they can't say anything.
What a waste of time.
Tsk. All that for nothing.
Master Yuma!
HA HA HA
Typical, huh? Fail in life and run to your mistress.
Mom! Where's dad!?
Mom ...

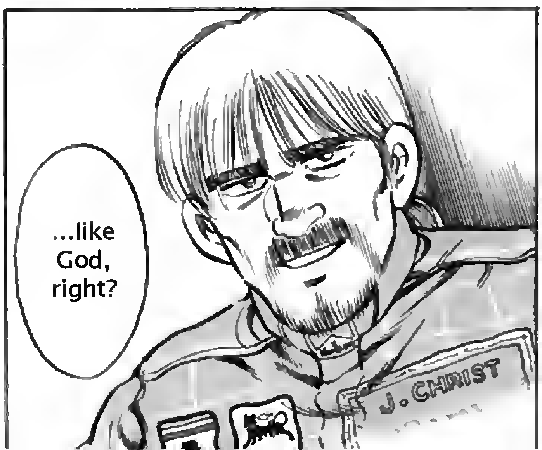

I lived with him for twenty years... And this is it, one measly letter.
Why are you burning it!?
That's dad's letter...

!?
I lost...
...to that woman!
Ha ha... Heh...
Hahaha... Haha- haha...
Mom...
HA HA HA ほほほ
HA HA HA ほほほ
HA HA HA ほほほ

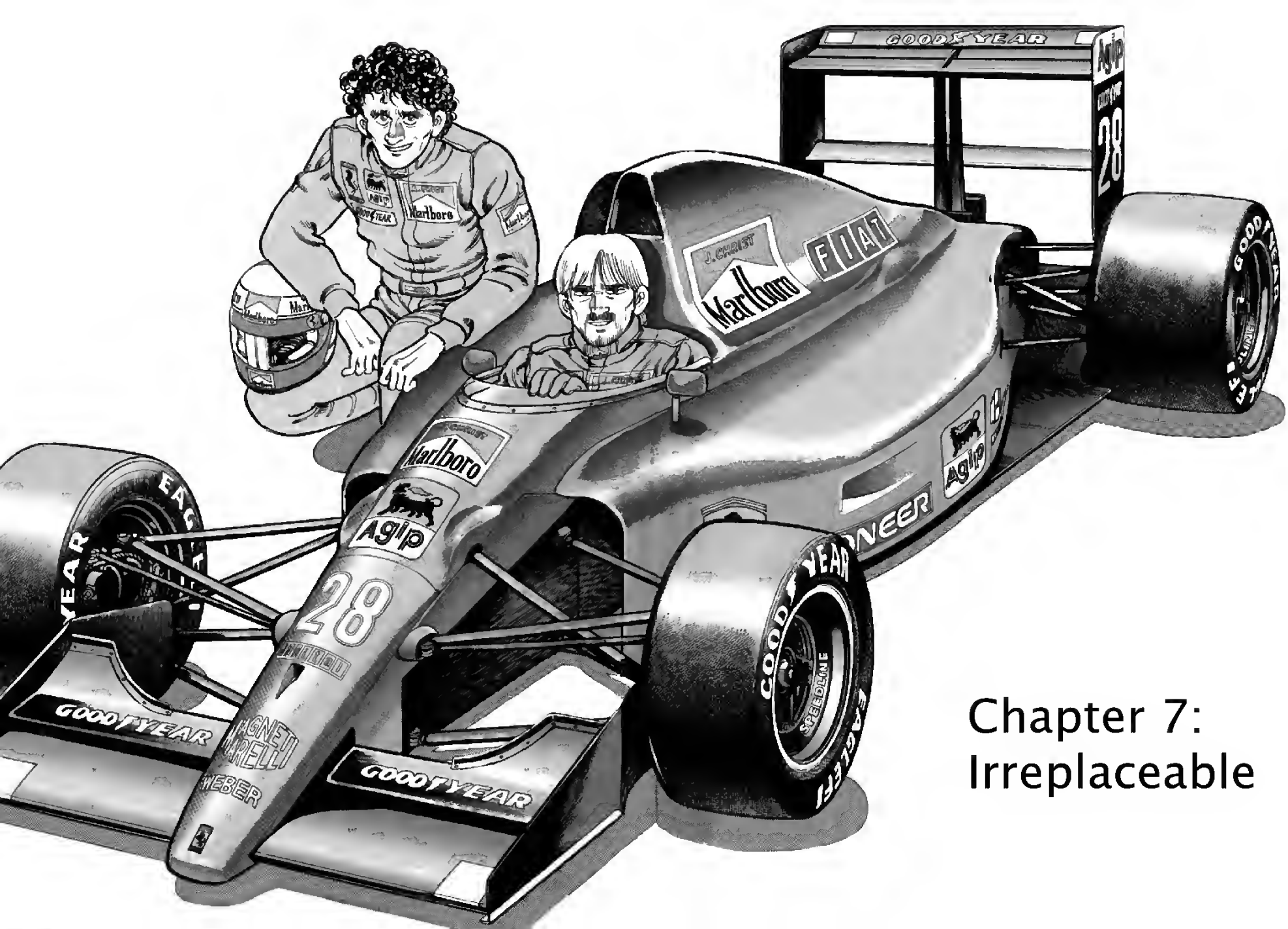
When it comes to Italians, there's no problem if they're winning...
...but when they lose, they're all bruises.
Chapter 7: Irreplaceable

Those Italians... They're not known to have the patience to train a driver slowly and surely.

Ferrari, which sits on the throne of the F1 world, decides to send in their rookie Jesus. That's some confidence.
Whether it's praise or slander, they sure do it passionately.

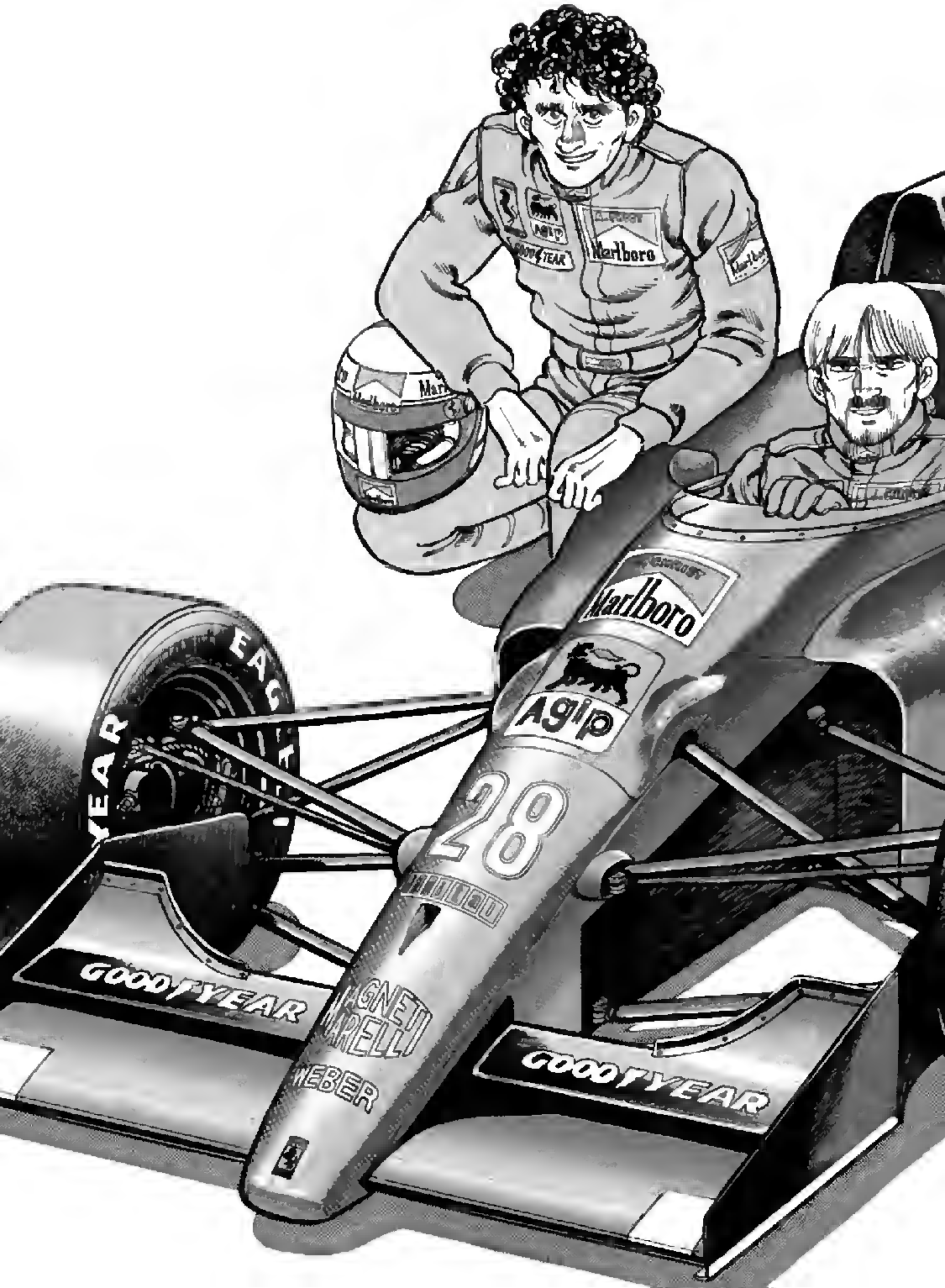

...like God, right?
J. CHRIST

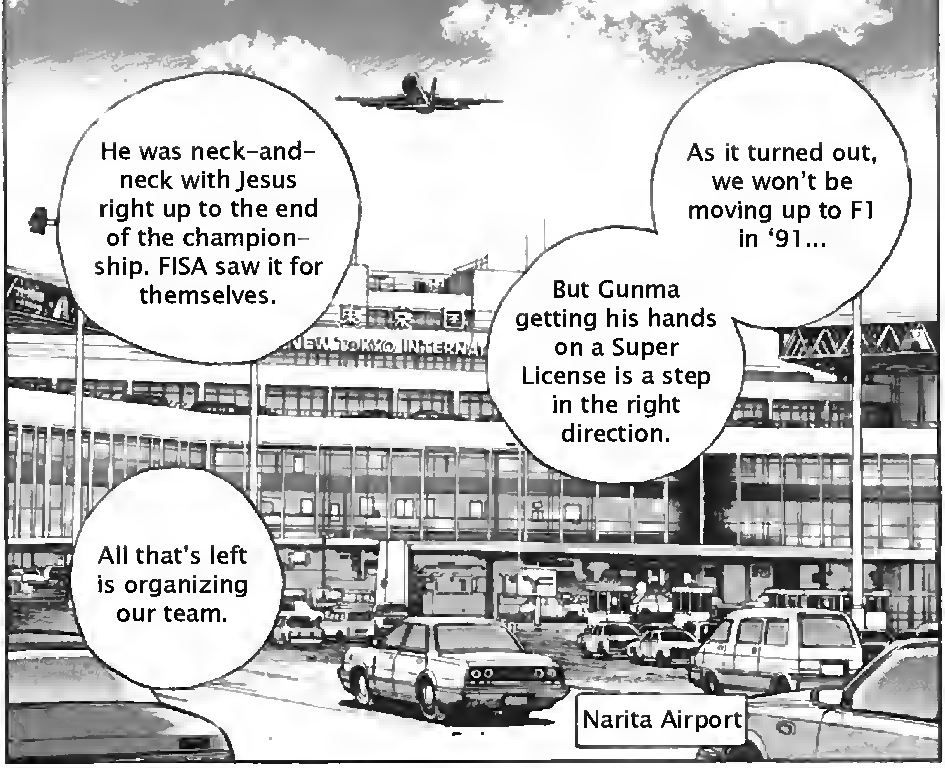
I mean, he's supposed to be...
Slowly and surely...? Isn't that unnecessary?

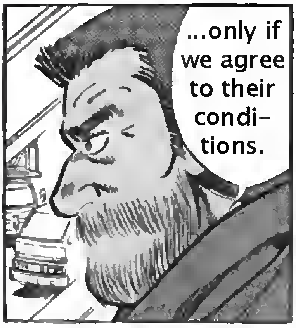


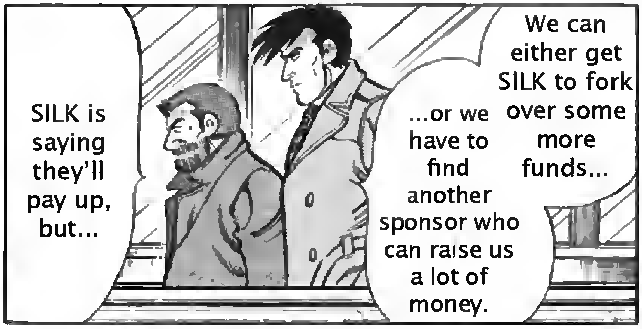
Chapter 7: Irreplaceable

Chapter 7: Irreplaceable


Marlboro
Agip
28
GOODYEAR
MAGNETI MARELLI
WEBER


He was neck-and-neck with Jesus right up to the end of the championship. FISA saw it for themselves.
As it turned out, we won't be moving up to F1 in '91...
But Gunma getting his hands on a Super License is a step in the right direction.
All that's left is organizing our team.
Narita Airport


...only if we agree to their conditions.


SILK is saying they'll pay up, but...
...or we have to find another sponsor who can raise us a lot of money.
We can either get SILK to fork over some more funds...

...there seems to be some issues with our design team.

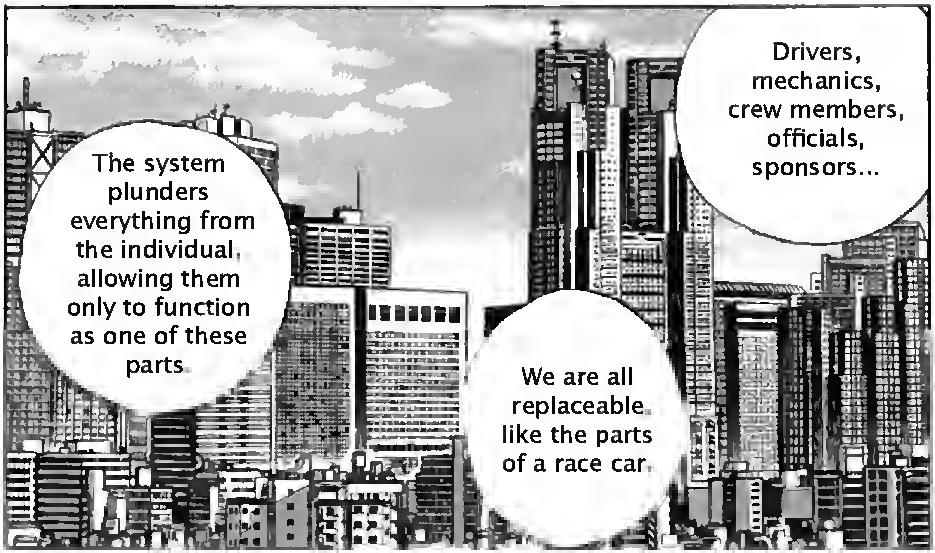
In other words ...
Our prospects for the engines are looking good. The only issue has to do with packaging.

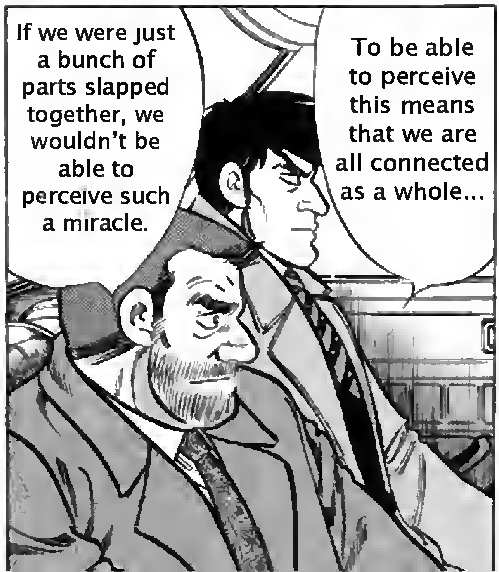
We're gonna be in F1. This isn't amateur racing. Prepare to work with a bigger team.
Don't get weak-kneed, Kuroi! These things work themselves out.
We'll need at least 130 people. As for designers, we'll dig out people with a track record for support.
It's unreasonable to expect him to design a good F1 car all of a sudden.
There's no arguing Tamotsu is still young and he has no track record.
Plus, he's an engineer at heart.
...of what it means to fight.
What's most important is that we have a clear understanding...
What it means... to fight!?
That's right.

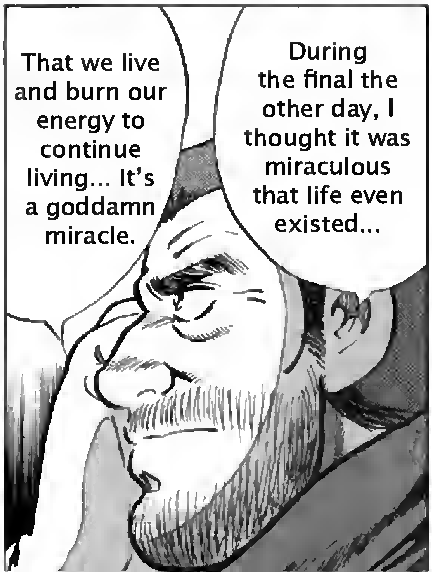
The man called Gunma Akagi, I mean.
I know it sounds stupid, but he's kind of an obsession of mine.
BREHHH
Lemme ask you this, Kuroi. Are you in the racing business?
Then let me ask you something else. Why are you obsessed with him?
Heh! I'm the same.
The racing business? I was before, but not anymore...
No, I just value your opinion.
What's this about...?
Are you testing me?
Man! You and me... We sure get along, huh!?
That's it! I want to see the same thing.
Ugh. Get offa me.
...a miracle, with my very own eyes!
I want to see...

The only reason why racing exists is that there were people who wanted to drive fast.
It's not because there were excellent cars, or great circuits.
There once was a man who wanted to drive faster than anyone else...
That's where our story begins.
It's for this reason that there are race cars, and courses, and teams, and a racing industry.
But before anyone realized, this world of racing had become a system, and began moving forward. The system grew enormously, became complex, and it now exists as a single, isolated organism.

We are simply replaceable parts used to help this world function.
This is the true nature of what we call civilization.
Inside this organism, we are no longer unique and irreplaceable components.

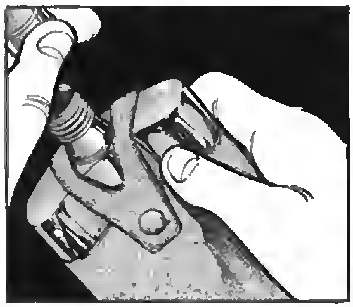

The system plunders everything from the individual, allowing them only to function as one of these parts.
We are all replaceable, like the parts of a race car.
Drivers, mechanics, crew members, officials, sponsors...


If we were just a bunch of parts slapped together, we wouldn't be able to perceive such a miracle.
To be able to perceive this means that we are all connected as a whole...

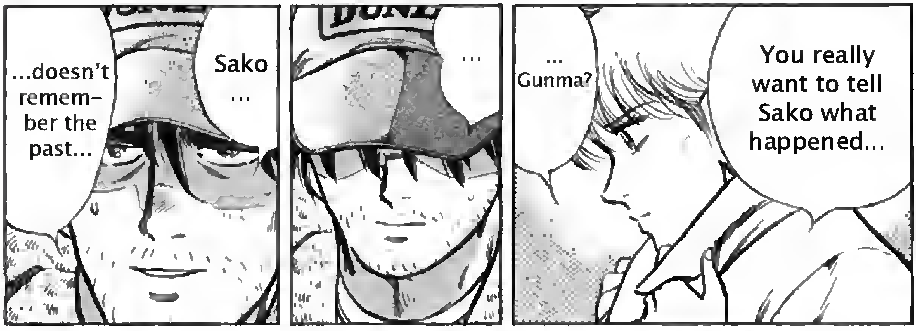

That we live and burn our energy to continue living... It's a goddamn miracle.
During the final the other day, I thought it was miraculous that life even existed...

Not two separate parts as man and wife.
...mean that we've been drawn together to form a whole.
...and the fact that we lived together all the while...
The fact that Anna and I divorced and remarried over and over again...
He races. We're here and we let him race. Tamotsu builds the cars he races in.
It's true...
Heh. Listen to me go on.
I hear ya.
Our irreplaceable driver...
...is beginning to forget what it means to race.
We're all irreplace-able!
That makes our problem all the more serious.

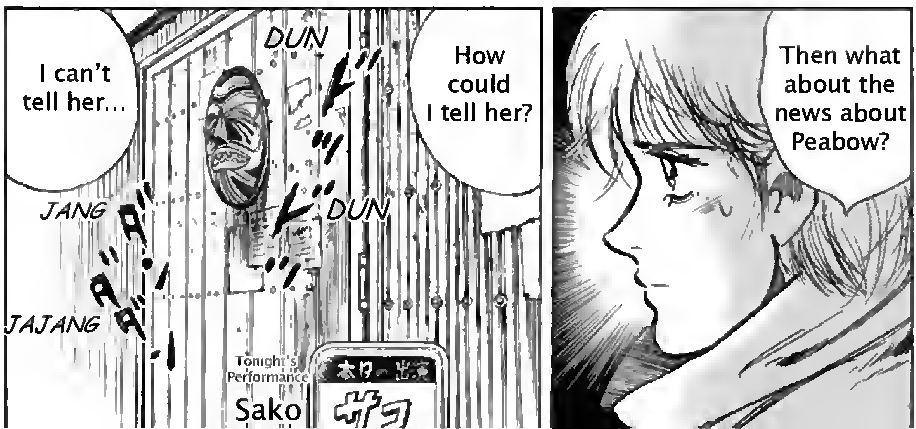
DUM
JANG
JANG DUM
DUM DUM
DUDUM
HITACHI
SUNTORY ROYAL
Fukuoka
福 岡
HAKATA
Rock'n Roll Night

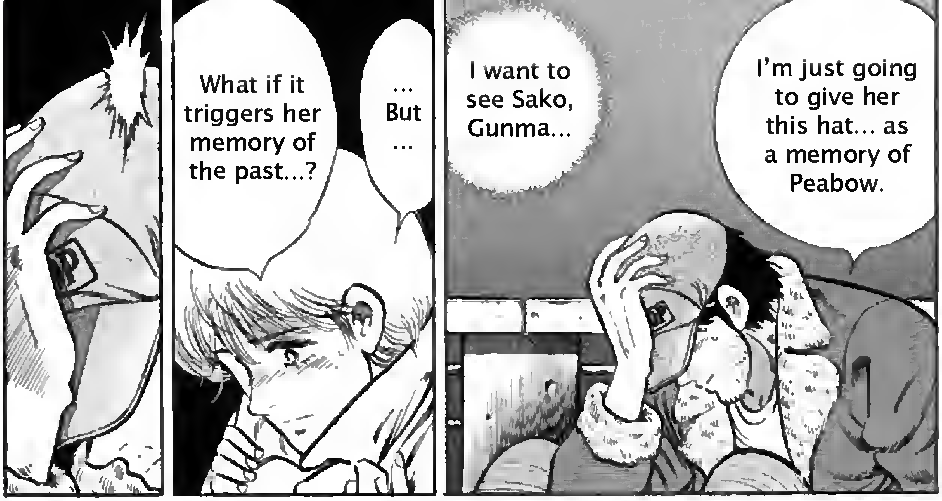


HACK HACK HACK

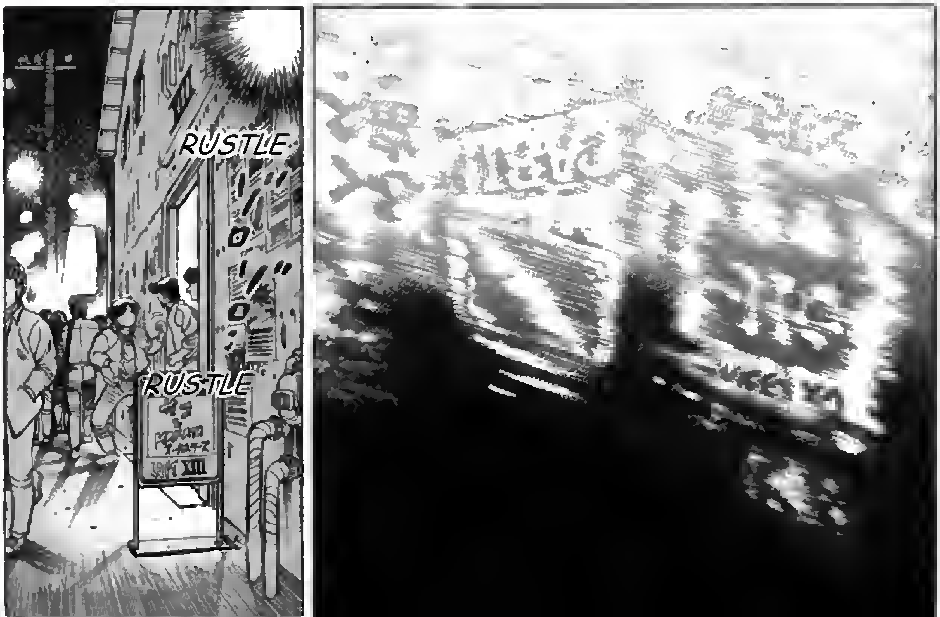

...doesn't remember the past...
Sako ...
...
...Gunma?
You really want to tell Sako what happened...

...if we don't remind her.
She's better off...

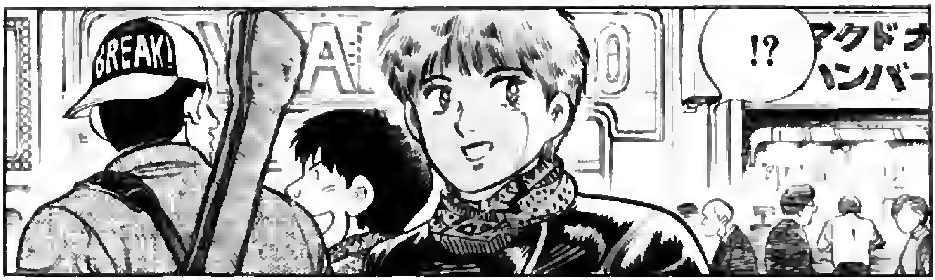

I can't tell her...
DUN
How could I tell her?
JANG
DUN
JAJANG
Tonight's Performance
Sako
Then what about the news about Peabow?

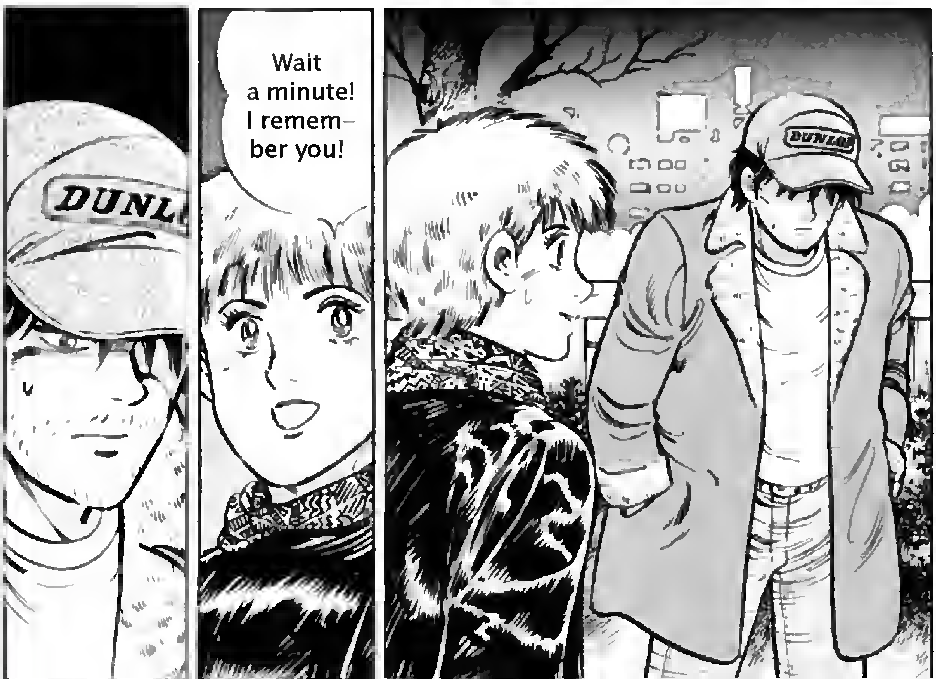

What if it triggers her memory of the past...?
... But ...
I want to see Sako, Gunma...
I'm just going to give her this hat... as a memory of Peabow.

Shut up...
Don't drink so much...
HACK HACK HACK
GULP


RUSTLE
RUSTLE

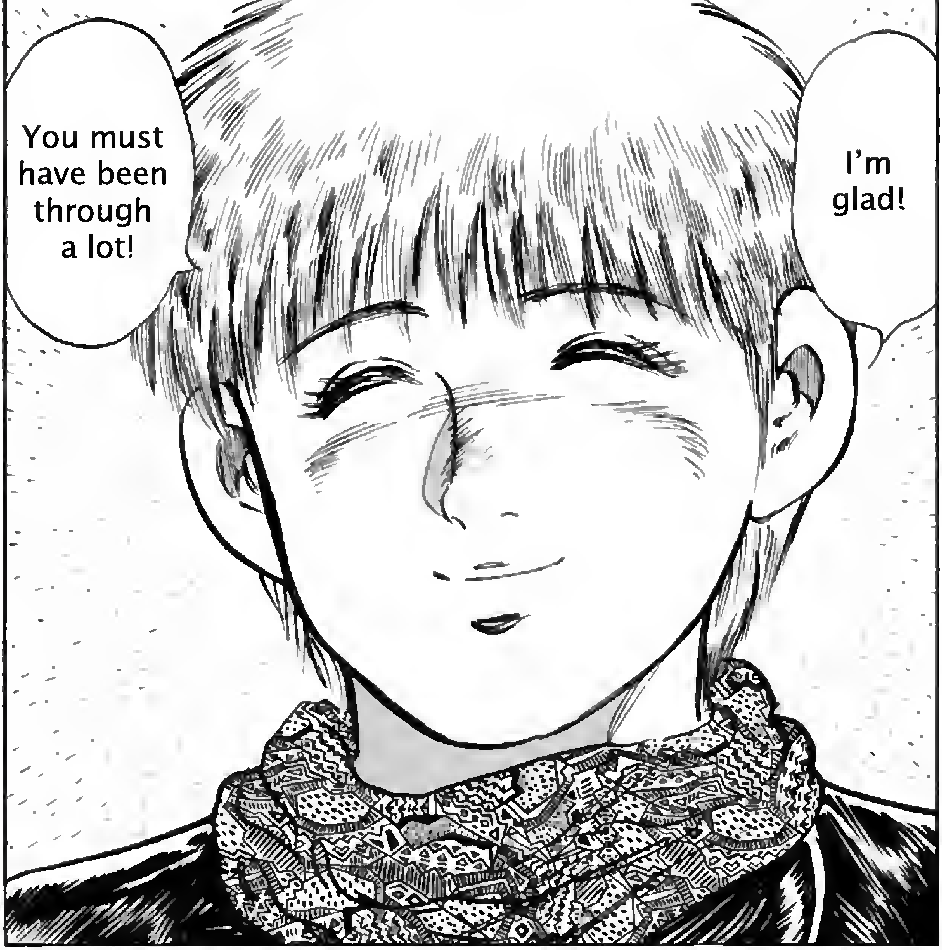
7
HA HA HA HA
Let's party! Woohoo!
Woohoo! We did it!
...


BREAK!
!?


Wait a minute! I remember you!
DUNLOP

I came to give you this...
You had crutches and you were following me around...
It was way back, and you said you just got dumped or something ...
Please... take good care of it.
A kid who loved you asked me to...
But why?
Oh, wow! Thank you!
Did he die?
...
It's written on your forehead ...
Hehehe ...
Yo, Sako! Hurry up, let's go!
Uh... Well...

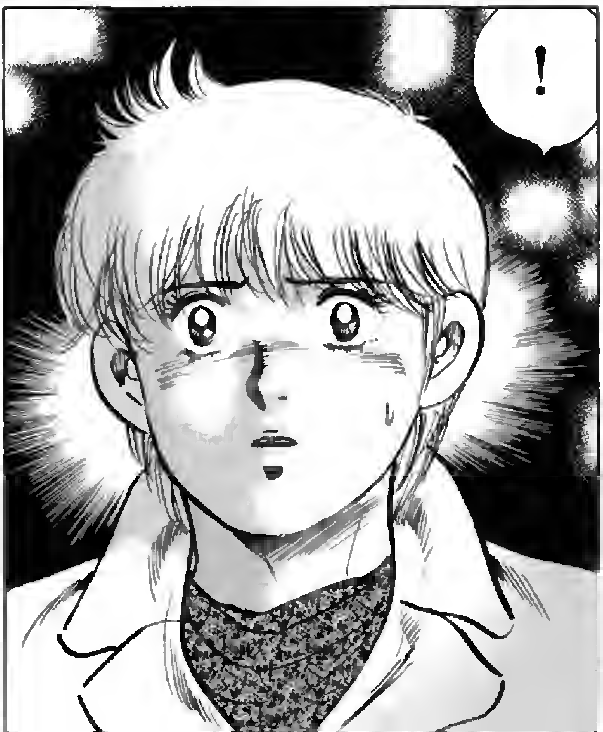
...
That kid was very dear to you, wasn't he?
You wanted to kill yourself too...
And then...
But...
You didn't die after all.


You must have been through a lot!
I'm glad!

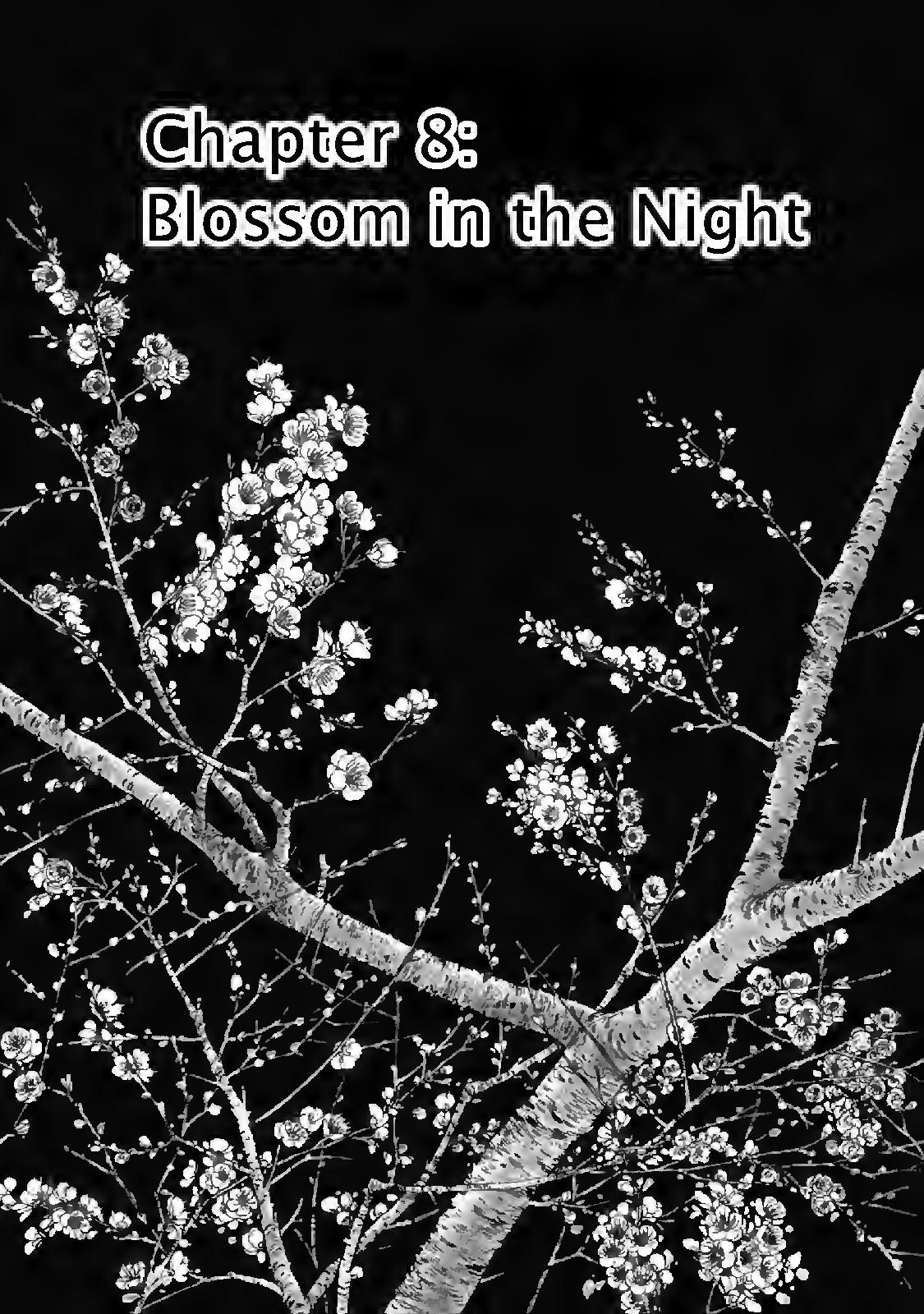
...
I'll wear it in his place.
Thanks. I'll treasure this hat.

Gunma, wait! Where are you going!?
ホテル ブルー
ホテル クイーン
HOTEL 真木
ホテル ニュー中洲
Gunma ...

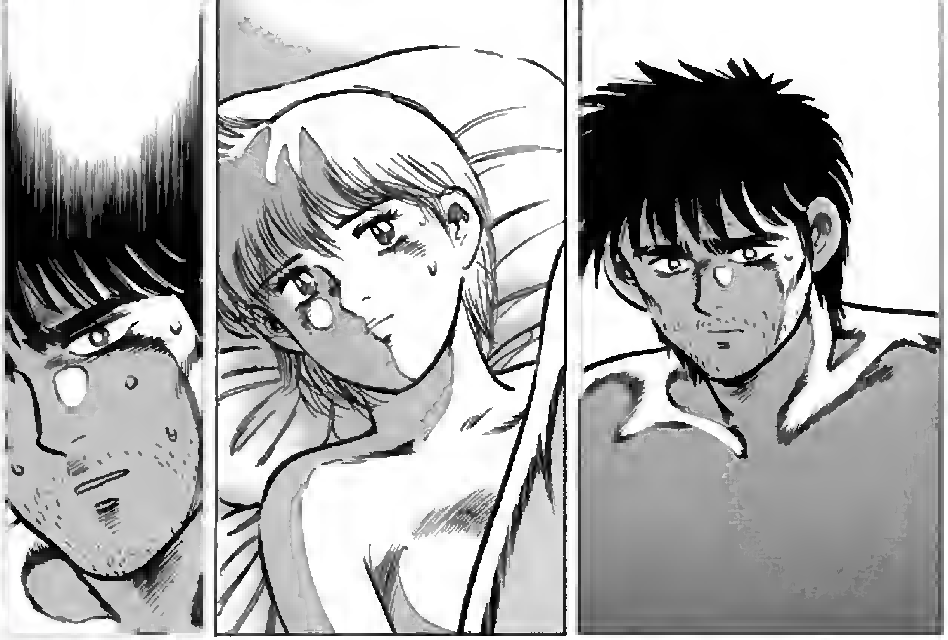
You gotta save me...
Junko... I'm done for...


!

Chapter 8:
Blossom in the Night



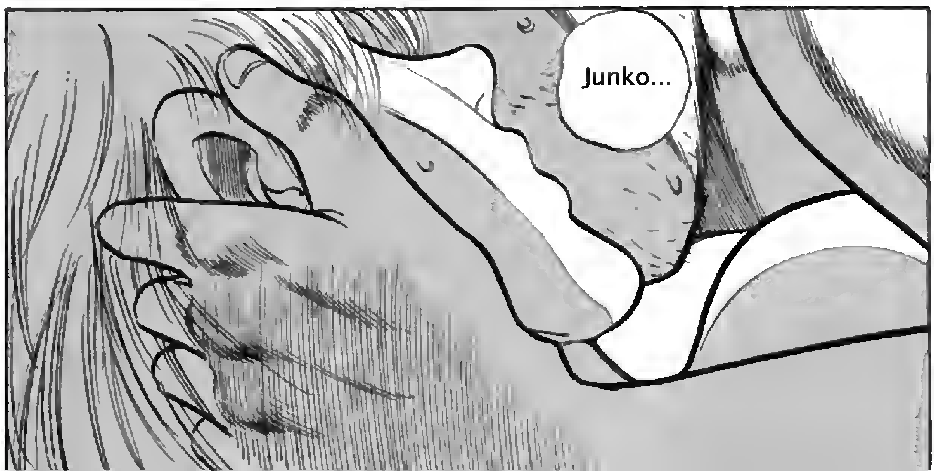
ビスタ



Don't force yourself...
Don't say anything...
I...
Junko...

I don't think I can save you...
Junko...
I want to make you come ...
Forget about that...
Just let it out!

The only thing I can do for you now...
...is to take all of you in.
So I want you to come! As many times as you can.


Junko...

GLUC
GLUC
How long are they gonna torture themselves like that?
They can't help it...
That right?
They went to Fukuoka together, huh?
To see Sako...
Hmph!
THUMP
They're at a loss!?
They're at a loss for what they need to do...
There's just too much going on...
SLIP
...
SLIP
They just need to live, that's all!
That's just crazy talk!

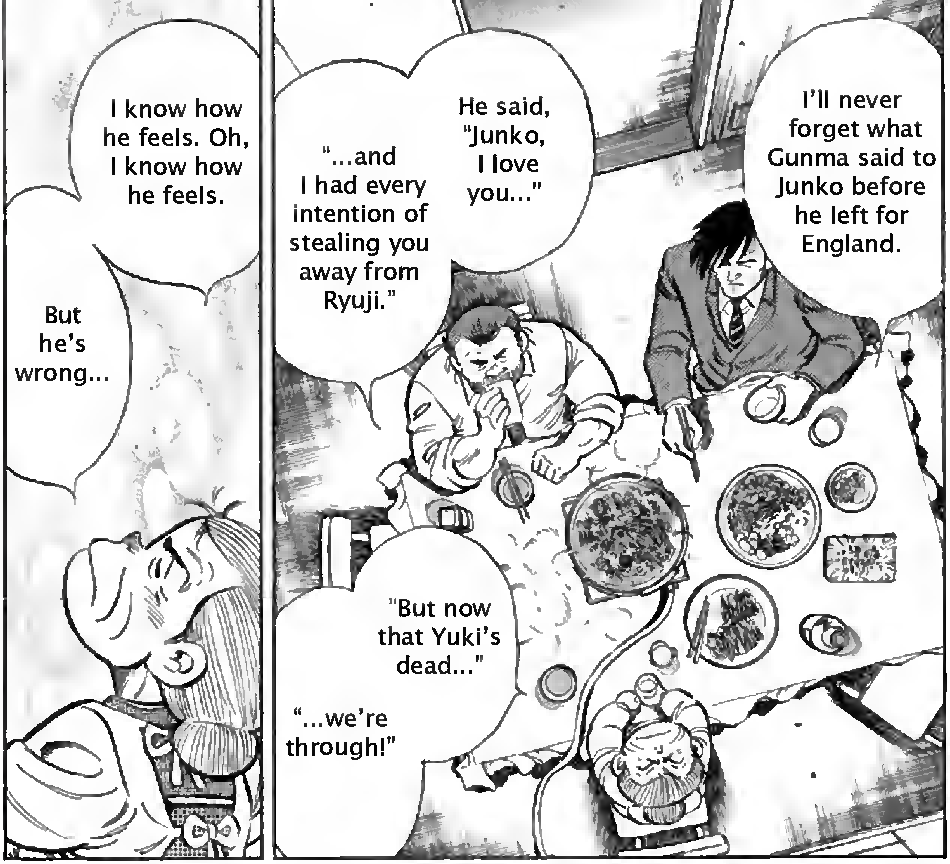
They're living under the illusion that the brain is the center of the human experience, and that only the brain has a say in anything!
They don't know what to do because they rely on their brains too much!
They need to shut up and live!
That's all there is to it!

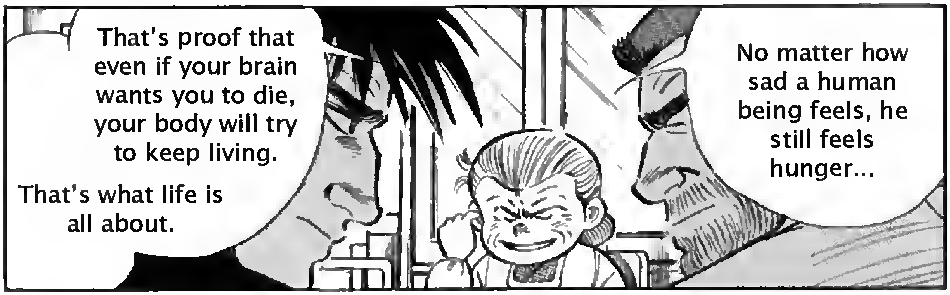
You got your tires, your suspension, your frame, your engine, your driver... With all those together, you can finally drive!
Am I wrong!?

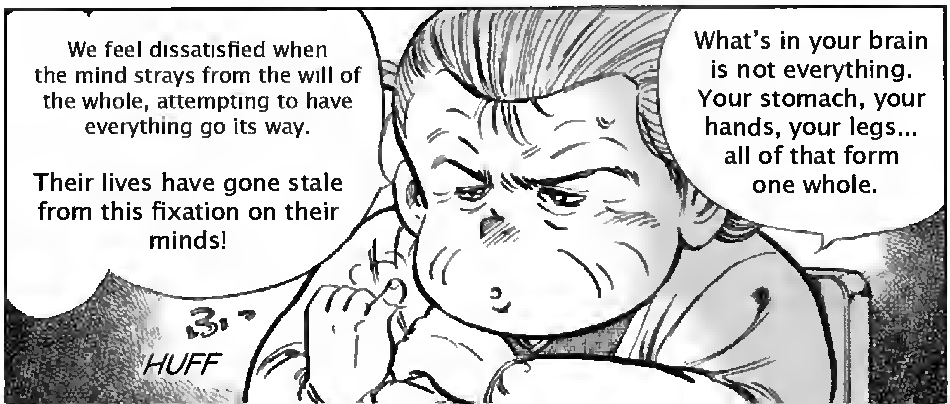
I've never seen anyone that lived with just a brain and nothing else!
GLUG
Racing is the same!

GLUC
GLUC
He just needs to do it with her already, the nitwit!

You're absolutely right, Mrs. Komori.


I know how he feels. Oh, I know how he feels.
But he's wrong...
"...and I had every intention of stealing you away from Ryuji."
He said, "Junko, I love you..."
I'll never forget what Gunma said to Junko before he left for England.
"But now that Yuki's dead..."
"...we're through!"


That's proof that even if your brain wants you to die, your body will try to keep living.
That's what life is all about.
No matter how sad a human being feels, he still feels hunger...

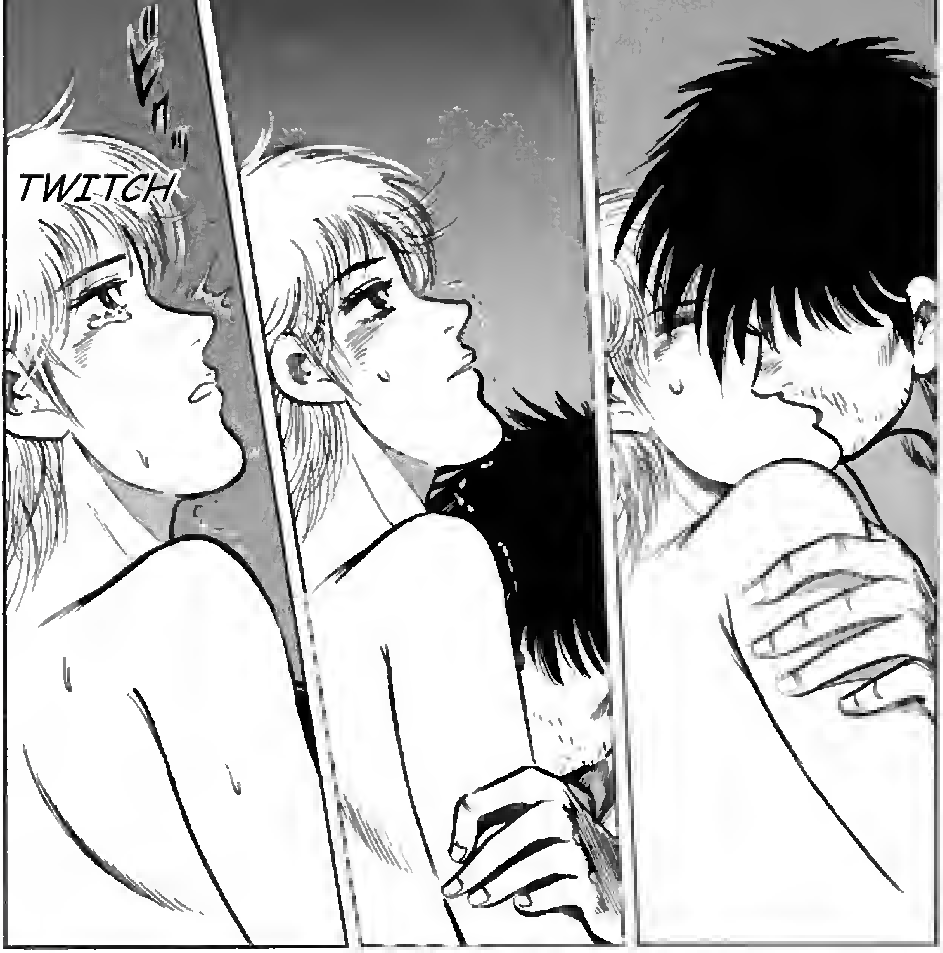

We feel dissatisfied when the mind strays from the will of the whole, attempting to have everything go its way.
Their lives have gone stale from this fixation on their minds!
What's in your brain is not everything. Your stomach, your hands, your legs... all of that form one whole.
HUFF

They just need to have sex like animals!
Forget about the fixations of the mind...
...and give in to the body's desires... to the flame that is life!

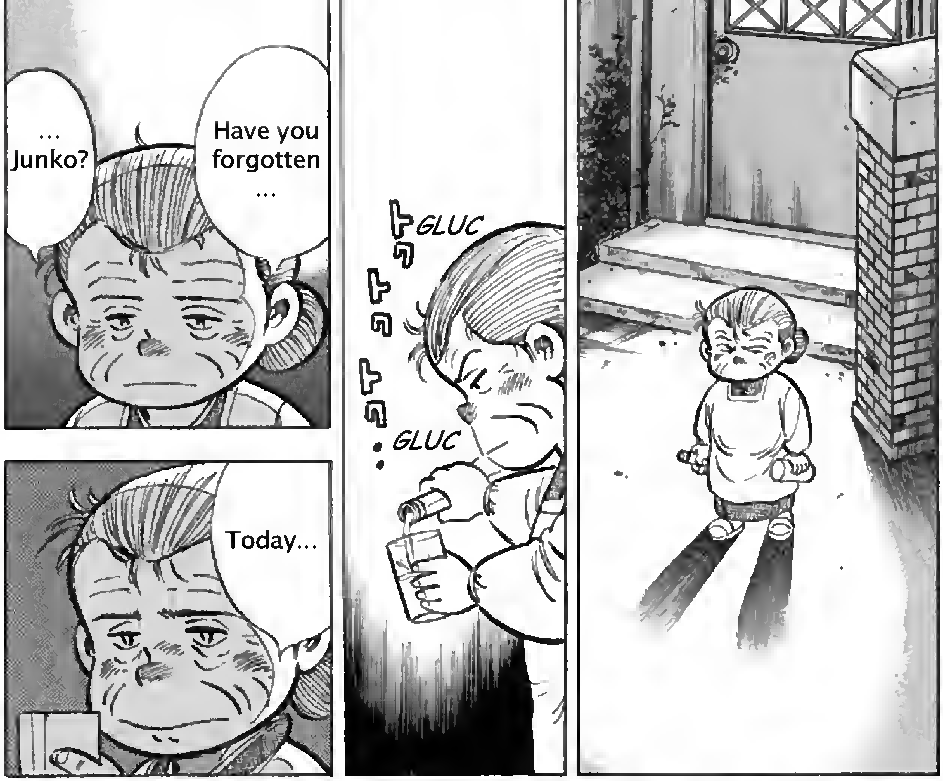
Bodies entwined, rubbing against one another.
Feel one another's touch on your skin.

Instead of denying the other's will to live...
...or your own...
...and just take it all in and embrace it!

Yuki and Sako are both a part of me...
Junko ...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...I made love to them too.
Yuki and Sako who are inside you...
And Peabow ...
And Ryuji is a part of me...
Now it's your turn...
...
Sounds like we just had an orgy...
Hmf hmf hmf hmf...
I want to make you come...

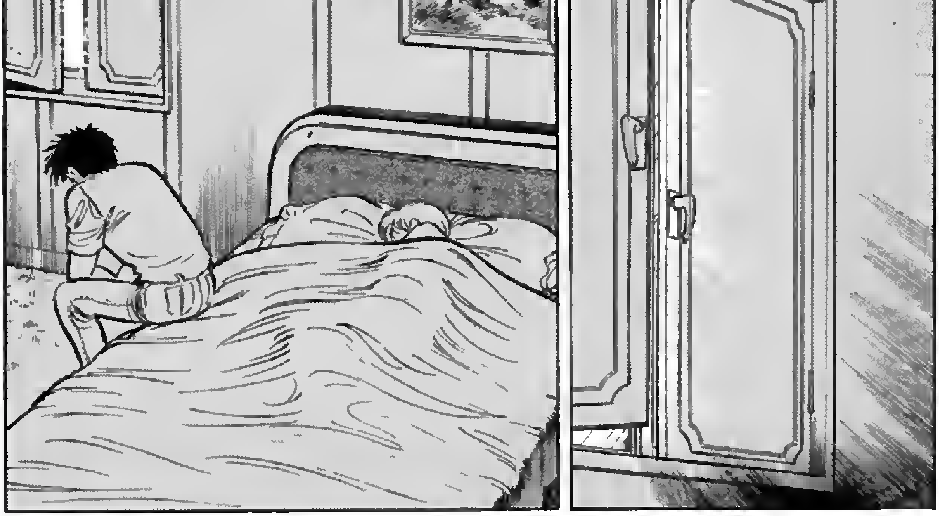

TWITCH

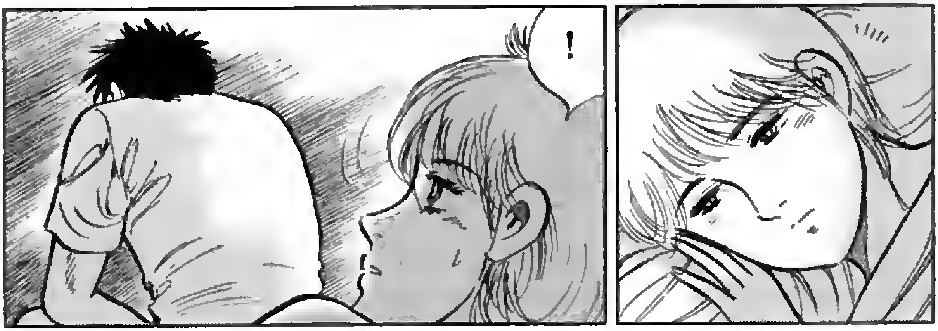
HEY
HEY
おい…
What'll become of those two?
GLUC
トクトクトク…
Men are stupid...
...and women are foolish.
GLUC
SHIVER
ぞっ!
It's not too late, honey.
SLURP
If I had met you a little earlier, Granny, I would've fallen right for you.
WHEW
You're gonna be a burden at Kuroi's place...
Why not stay here for the night?
Nah, I think I had too much to drink...
What? Aren't you gonna stay awhile longer?
治療
…
Good night.
VRUT
TUT
Tomorrow's a busy day. We have to get our team organized.


Have you forgotten ...
... Junko?
GLUC
GLUC
Today...

...is your birthday.

Happy birthday...
...to you!

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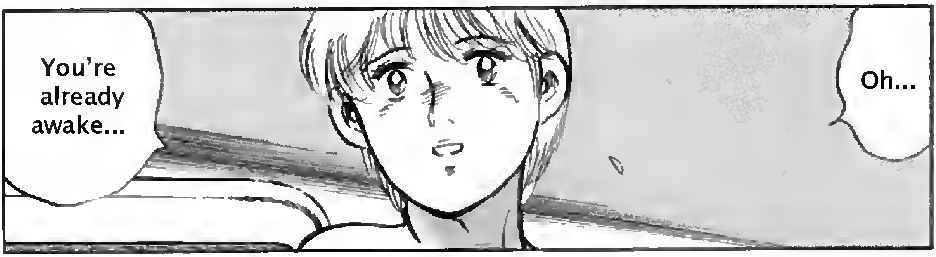
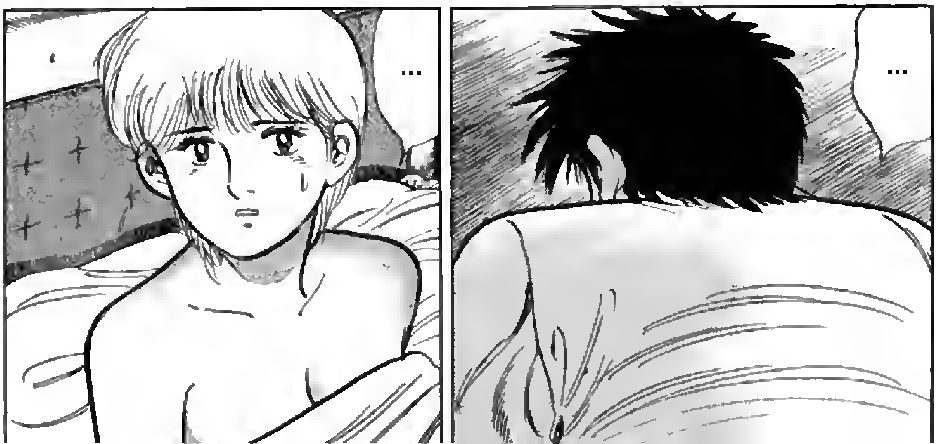
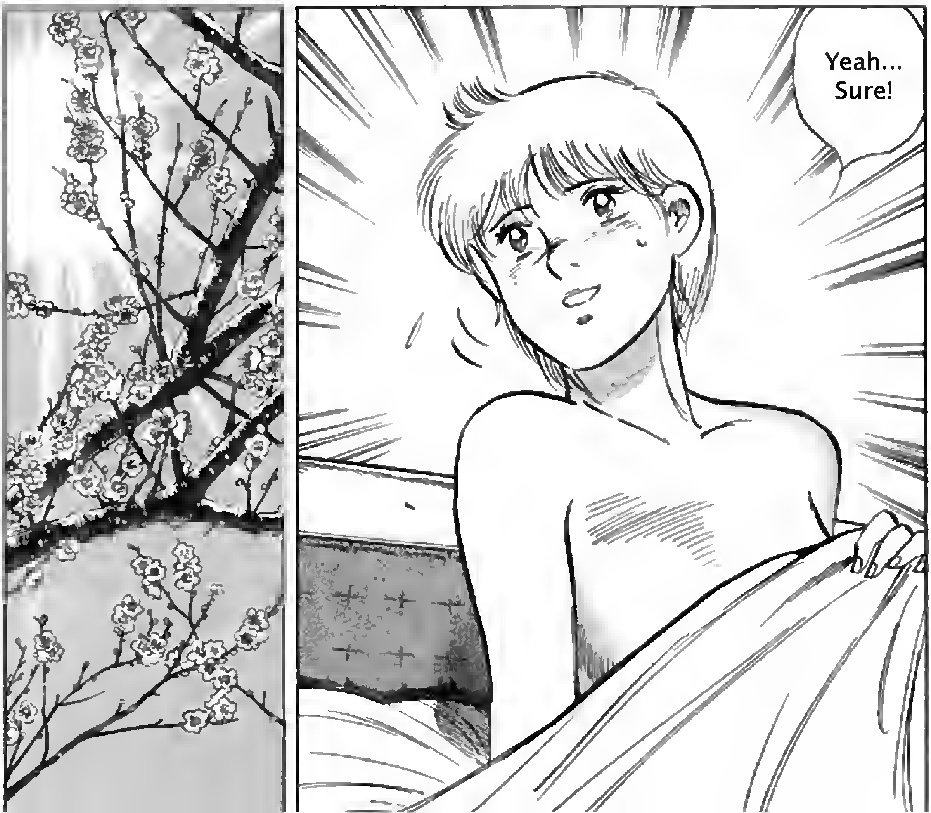

You're already awake...
Oh...

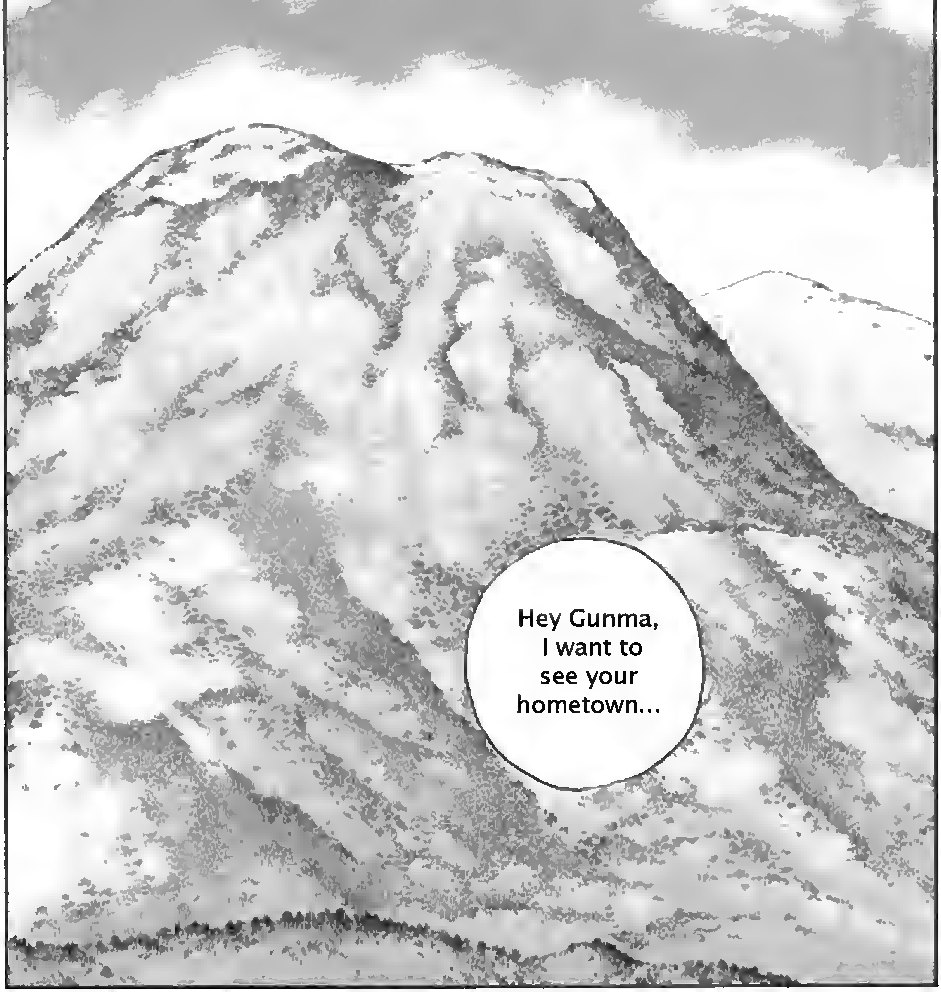

...
...

It doesn't matter what. I'm hungry...
Hot coffee, toast, some soup maybe...
!
Let's grab something to eat.
I'm hungry...


Yeah... Sure!

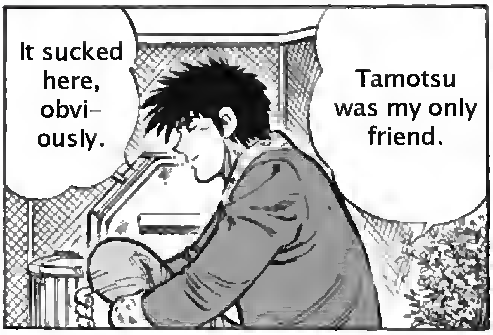
ホテル千鳥
IN
増田産婦人科

Chapter 9:
Back Home

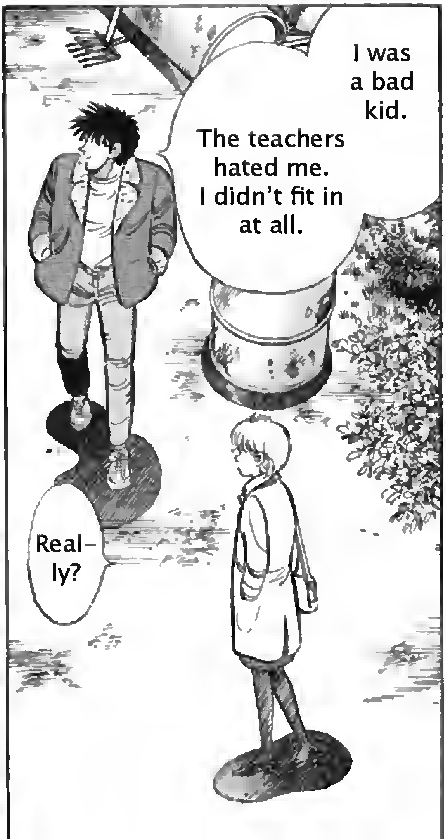

Hey Gunma, I want to see your hometown...

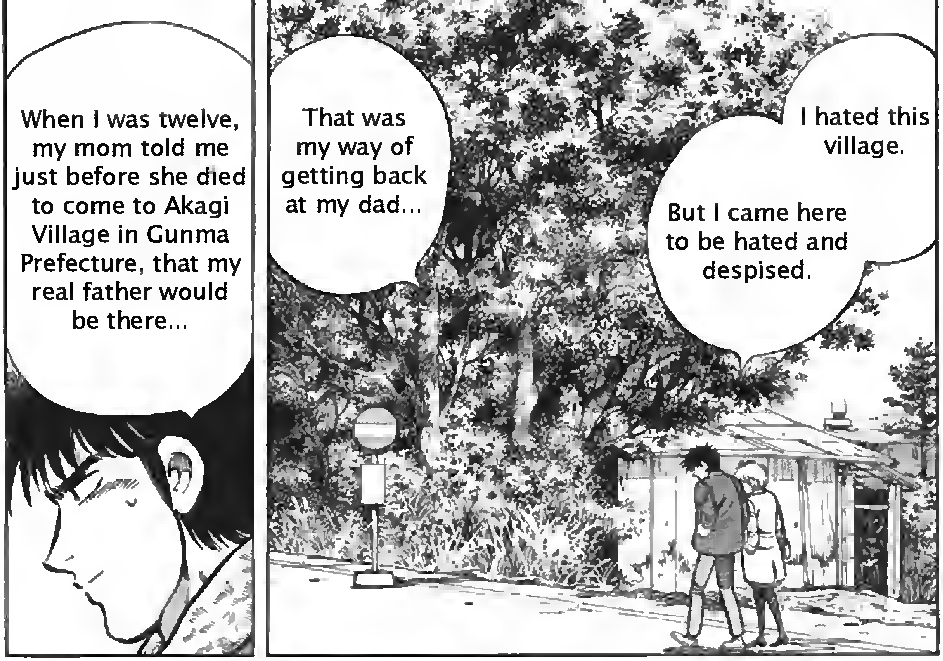
TO ガー
BRRRRN

My old school ...
I left during my junior year...

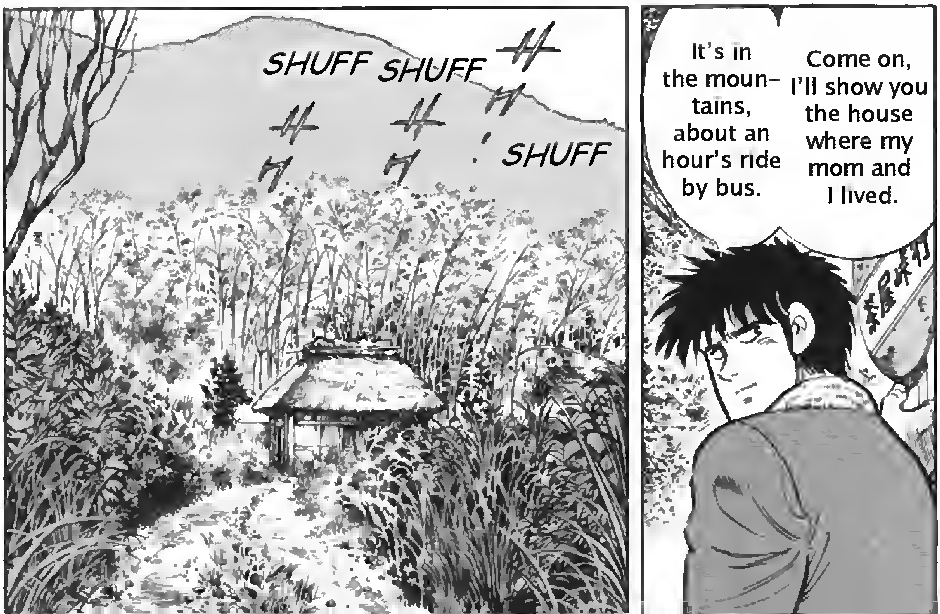

It sucked here, obvi-ously.
Tamotsu was my only friend.

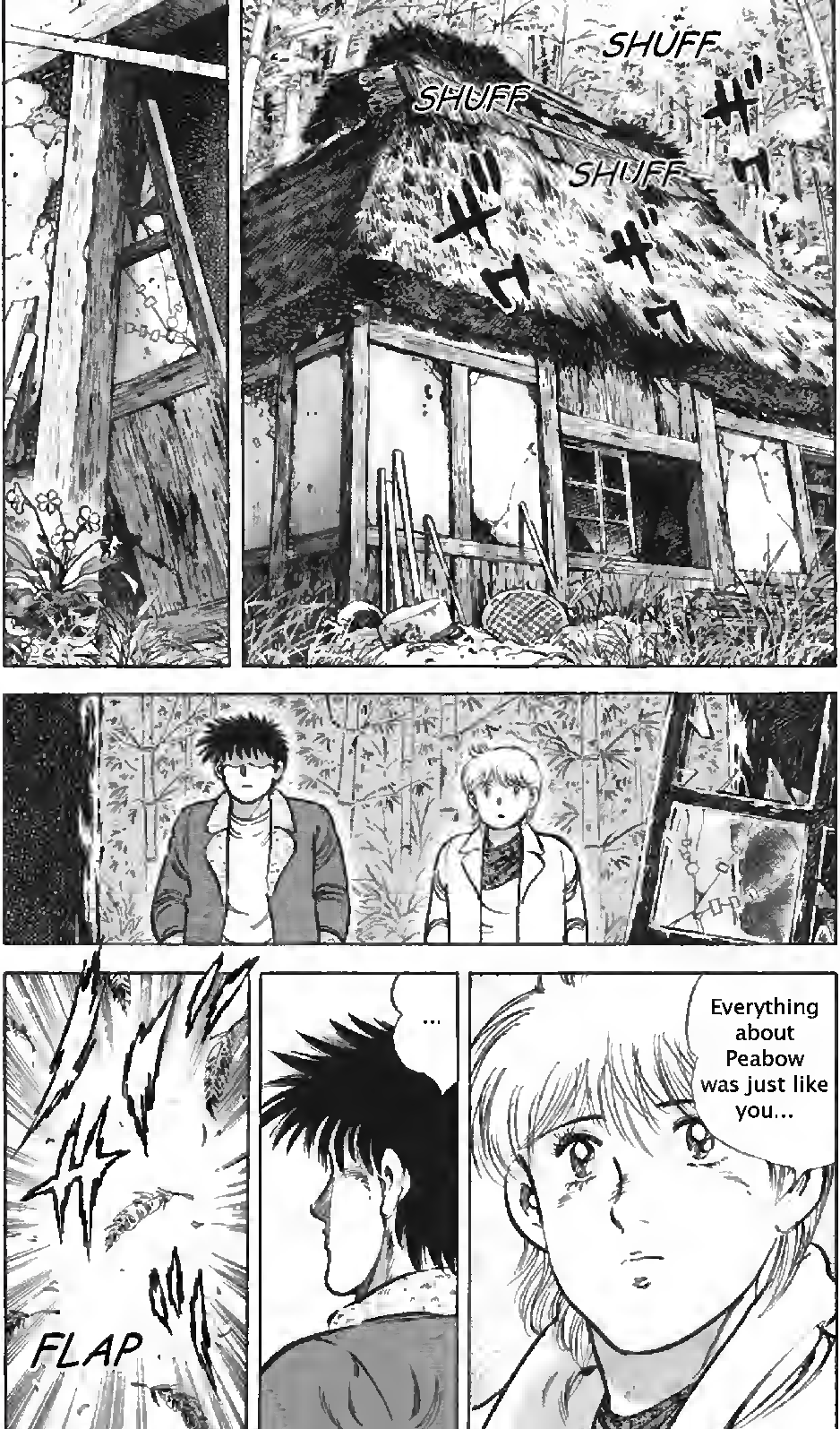
Wreaked havoc on the plantations, shoplifted, fought... I didn't study a single minute in my life.
I'd go to brothels. I'd go on rampages with my remodeled tractor.


I was a bad kid.
The teachers hated me. I didn't fit in at all.
Real-ly?


When I was twelve, my mom told me just before she died to come to Akagi Village in Gunma Prefecture, that my real father would be there...
That was my way of getting back at my dad...
I hated this village.
But I came here to be hated and despised.

...
VRUT
TUT
Ever since that day, I decided I would live my life with Soichiro Akagi as my mortal enemy.

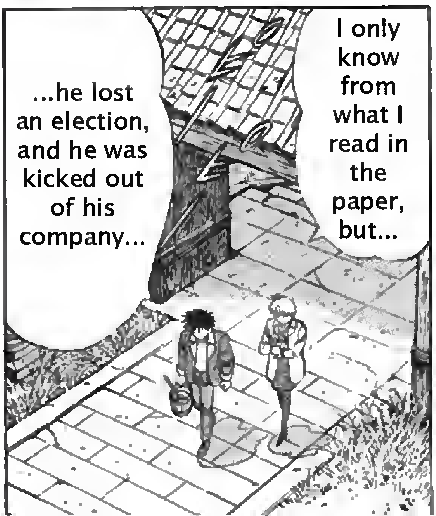

SHUFF SHUFF
SHUFF
It's in the mountains, about an hour's ride by bus.
Come on, I'll show you the house where my mom and I lived.


SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF
FLAP
...
Everything about Peabow was just like you...

Huh.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

...

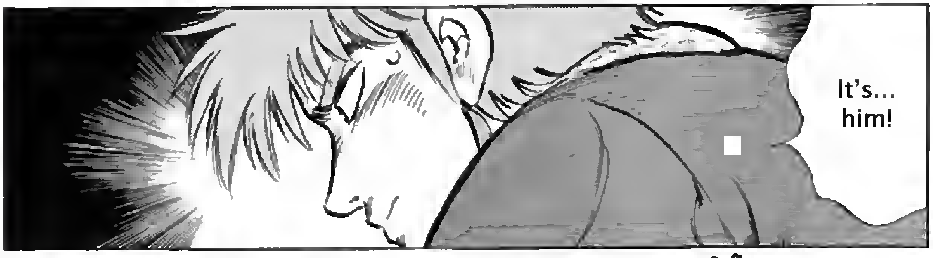
Is your father still your enemy?
Gunma...


...he lost an election, and he was kicked out of his company...
I only know from what I read in the paper, but...

I hadn't seen him in a long time. He was just an old geezer.
Last year, he came to visit me in England...

!?
What's wrong?
And that old man, he...
...but they all came to a standstill. He became this old man that I couldn't bear to look at.
I'm sure my dad had his own dreams...
It's gone...
It's gone ... My mom's grave...
SHUFF
SFT
Hey...
Here lies Shizue
What the hell is the meaning of this...?
It's all wrecked!

...
That's awful ...
Who the hell did this...?


It's... him!

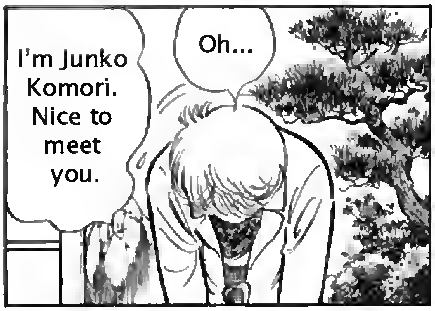
静江の墓
...
DASH
That son of a bitch!
G... Gunma ...
Wait, Gunma...

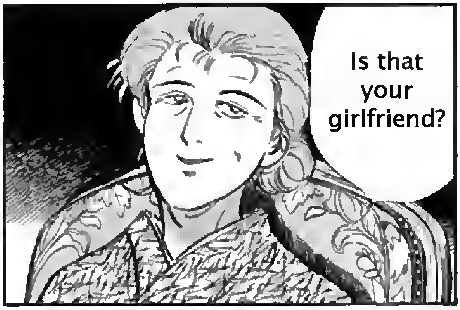
SLAM
Huff
Huff
Huff
Come on, Junko... I'll show that geezer...
CREAK
KRR
Oh... Gunma...
Well... He's...
Where's my dad!? Where is he!?

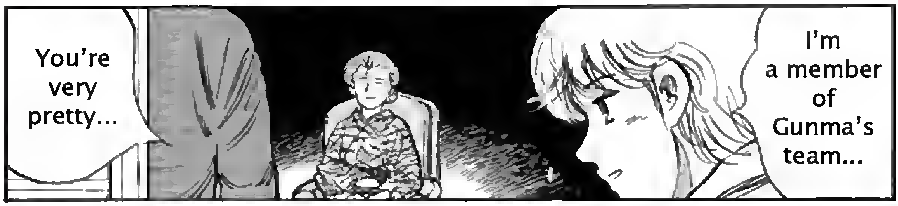
...Shizue's grave.
...who stepped on...
I'm the one...
!!

That's why I stepped on her grave.
His company, his family, his wife... all of it.
Ha ha ha ha ha...
Your father has left. He left everything.

Is... that right?
Who knows? One postcard came in, but I tossed it and burned it...
I don't even want to remember...
...
Where... Where is he!?


I'm Junko Komori. Nice to meet you.
Oh...

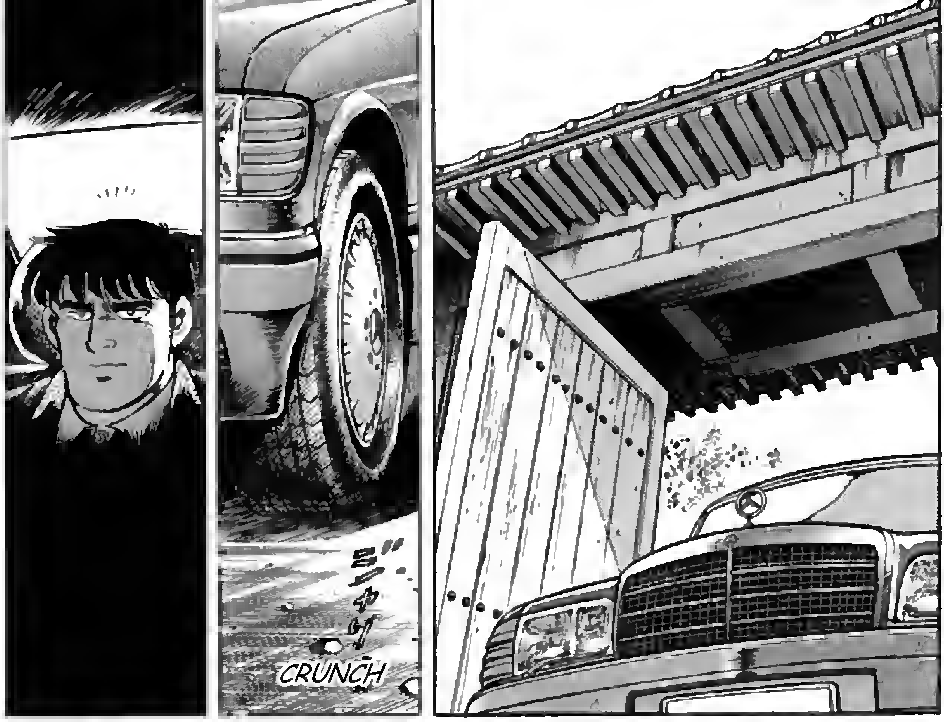

Is that your girlfriend?

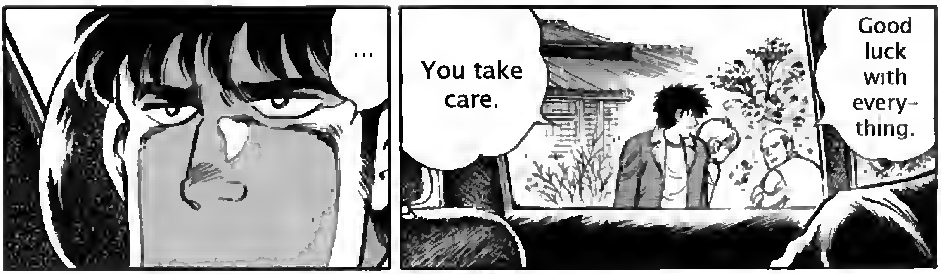

You're very pretty...
I'm a member of Gunma's team...

That's how it turned out. After all...
Everything about Gunma he inherited from his father
But you should be careful...

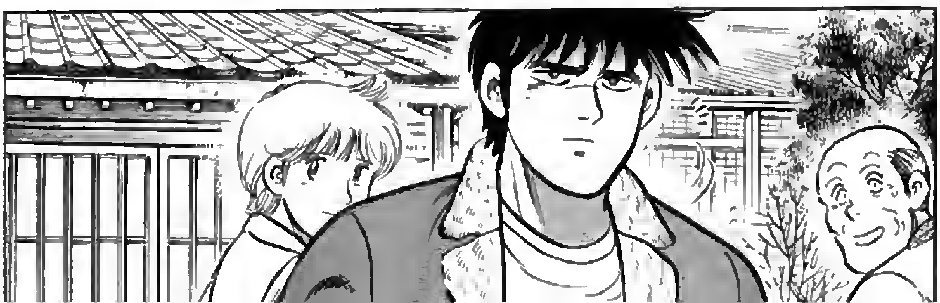
Ha ha ha... Ha ha ha...
...
...both live only for themselves and to pursue their own dreams.
...Gunma and his father...
They're egotistical men who are not capable of love.
ほ、ほ、ほ、Ha ha ha...
Maybe you're right.
...

...
Let's go, Junko.
Take care of yourself, step-mother...
You won't see me ever again.
PAT
I detested my father. I was a bad kid and I caused you nothing but trouble.
You took me in when I was twelve. I'm forever in your debt.
...
Be safe...
You too...

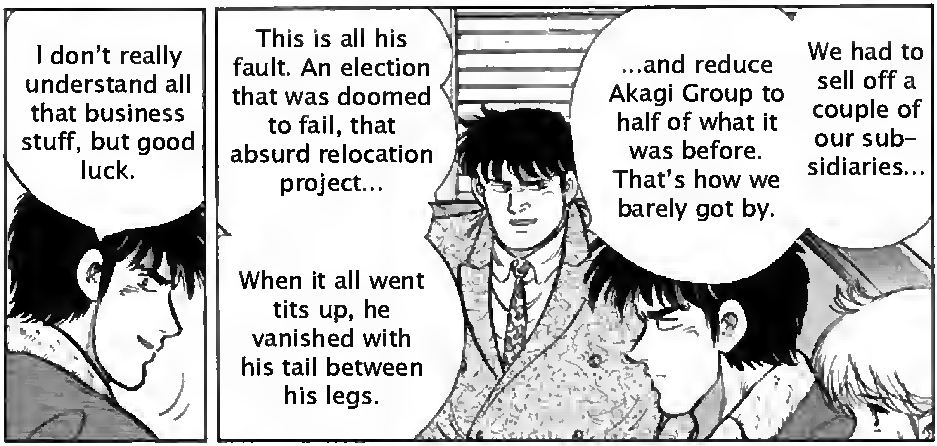

CRUNCH


...
You take care.
Good luck with everything.

SLAM



Dad left it in pieces, and now we're busy cleaning up after his mess...
Man ...
It's a wreck ...
...
Hey Shoma. Long time.
How's the com-pany?


I don't really understand all that business stuff, but good luck.
This is all his fault. An election that was doomed to fail, that absurd relocation project...
When it all went tits up, he vanished with his tail between his legs.
...and reduce Akagi Group to half of what it was before. That's how we barely got by.
We had to sell off a couple of our sub-sidiaries...

CLICK
Basically, he's just a loser.

The egoist loses in the end, I guess.

Why not? Let him do what he wants.
It's no place for some naive individual cause.
When you're running a conglomerate, you're faced with some gruesome facts.
In his ripe old age, he decided he...
It's not that simple. Not for those he left behind!
Admi-re!?
Don't you think that... maybe you're the one who admired him the most?
...
Man, if I only knew where he was... I'd go knock the daylights outta him.
Did you see how Mom's aged?
SNAP
That old geezer was just a loser, as it turned out. The structural mechanics of a corporation proved it.
...
Admire!? Him!?
Ha ha ha ha ha!

...!
We each find our own way in life... It's not about winning or losing... We each just pick different paths.
Don't say it like that, Shoma.
Shut your damn mouth and go to hell!
You're the same as him.
Go to hell, you little prick!

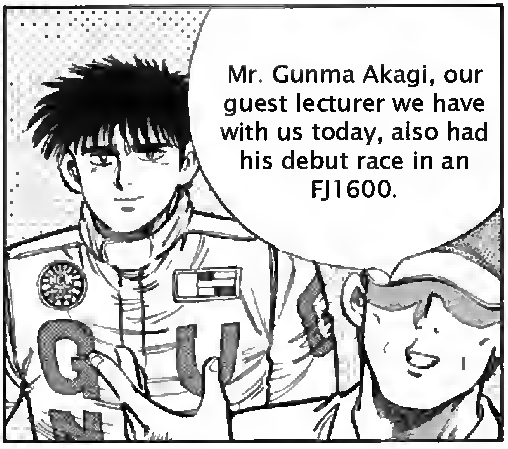
CHUGGA
ガタン
ガタン
CHUGGA
ガタン
CHUGGA
SHOOOOOOOOM
ヒュー
WHEEE

Chapter 10:
The Pursuit
BO
NMA AKAGI
TEAM

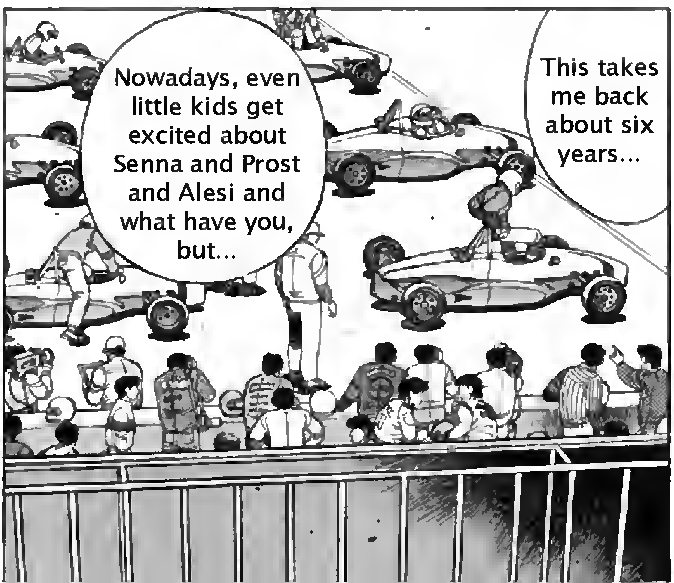
Go to Tsukuba, Gunma.
They want you to do a lecture at a racing school for young guys who are starting out.
CABIN
It's part of our project to acquire sponsors. We gotta do a little community service if we wanna build a team.
We're gonna put you out on the media, too.
We're gonna polish your reputation to get Japanese companies throw some money at us!

Well, now that I've explained to you the basics of racing on a circuit...
...you will all get a chance to actually drive on the circuit in a car called the FJ1600.

Today, you will have the opportunity to learn from the man himself. Take this chance to learn about braking, gear shift timing, and whatever else.
YEAH
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP


Mr. Gunma Akagi, our guest lecturer we have with us today, also had his debut race in an FJ1600.

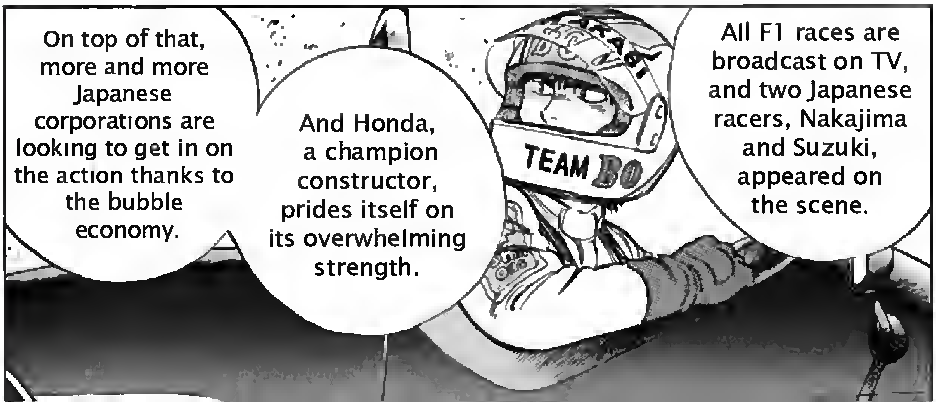
...back then, motorsport in Japan wasn't exactly the hottest thing on the market.


Nowadays, even little kids get excited about Senna and Prost and Alesi and what have you, but...
This takes me back about six years...

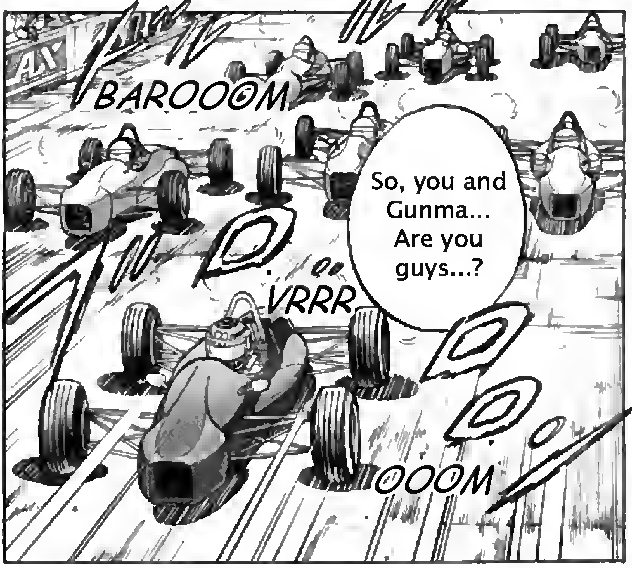
These days, FJ1600 is getting some attention because it's known as a gateway to formula racing, but...
And F3, which is another step below that, is just a race for fanatics who actually bother to follow it.
...and became some irrelevant race on an island in the east, off the world stage.
F2, which was the biggest race in Japan at the time, changed to F3000 because of FIA regulations...
YAK
YAK
WOO HOO
BRIDGESTONE

Now look what's happened ...

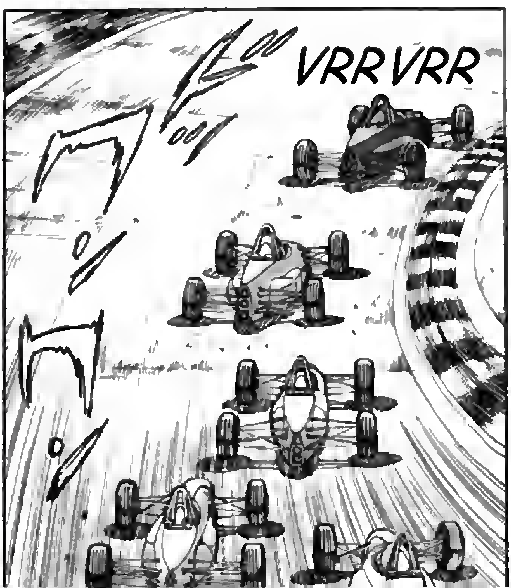
Back then, nobody had ever even heard of FJ1600.


On top of that, more and more Japanese corporations are looking to get in on the action thanks to the bubble economy.
And Honda, a champion constructor, prides itself on its overwhelming strength.
All F1 races are broadcast on TV, and two Japanese racers, Nakajima and Suzuki, appeared on the scene.
TEAM BO

BAROO
They got all the vocab down.
They talk about racing lines, braking, and whatnot.
Put together a track event like this, and you get all these guys who want to try driving on a circuit.
VAROOOM
VROO VROO


BAROOOM
So, you and Gunma... Are you guys...?
VRRR
OOOM

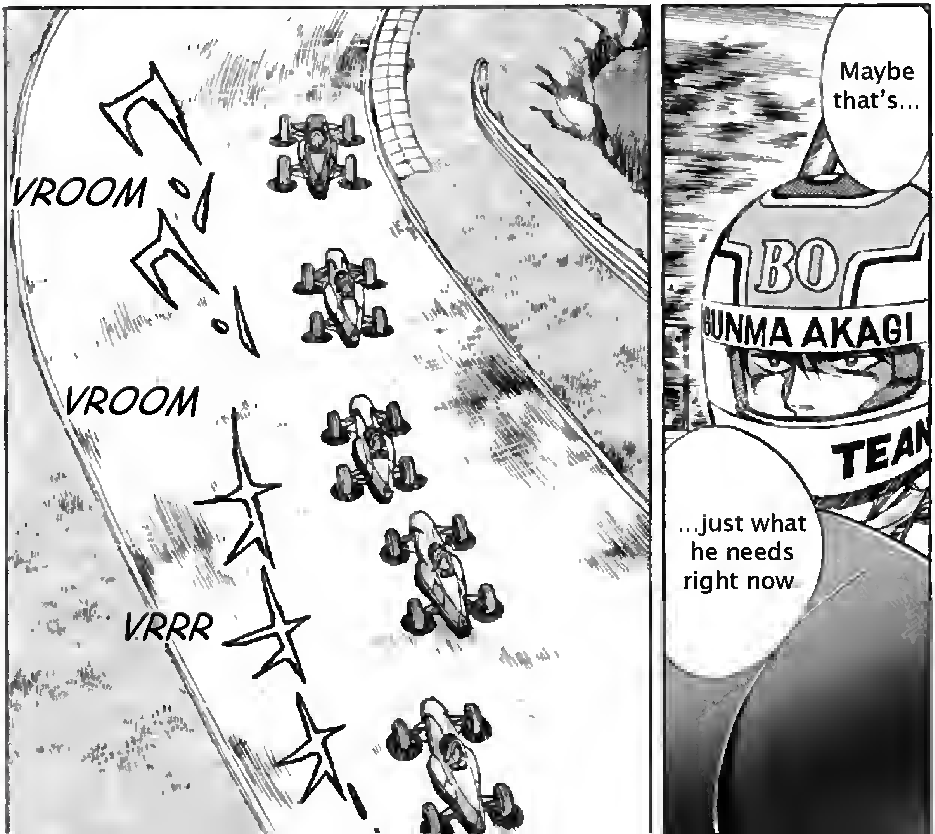
...
It's become a big thing, this racing business.
VROOOOM

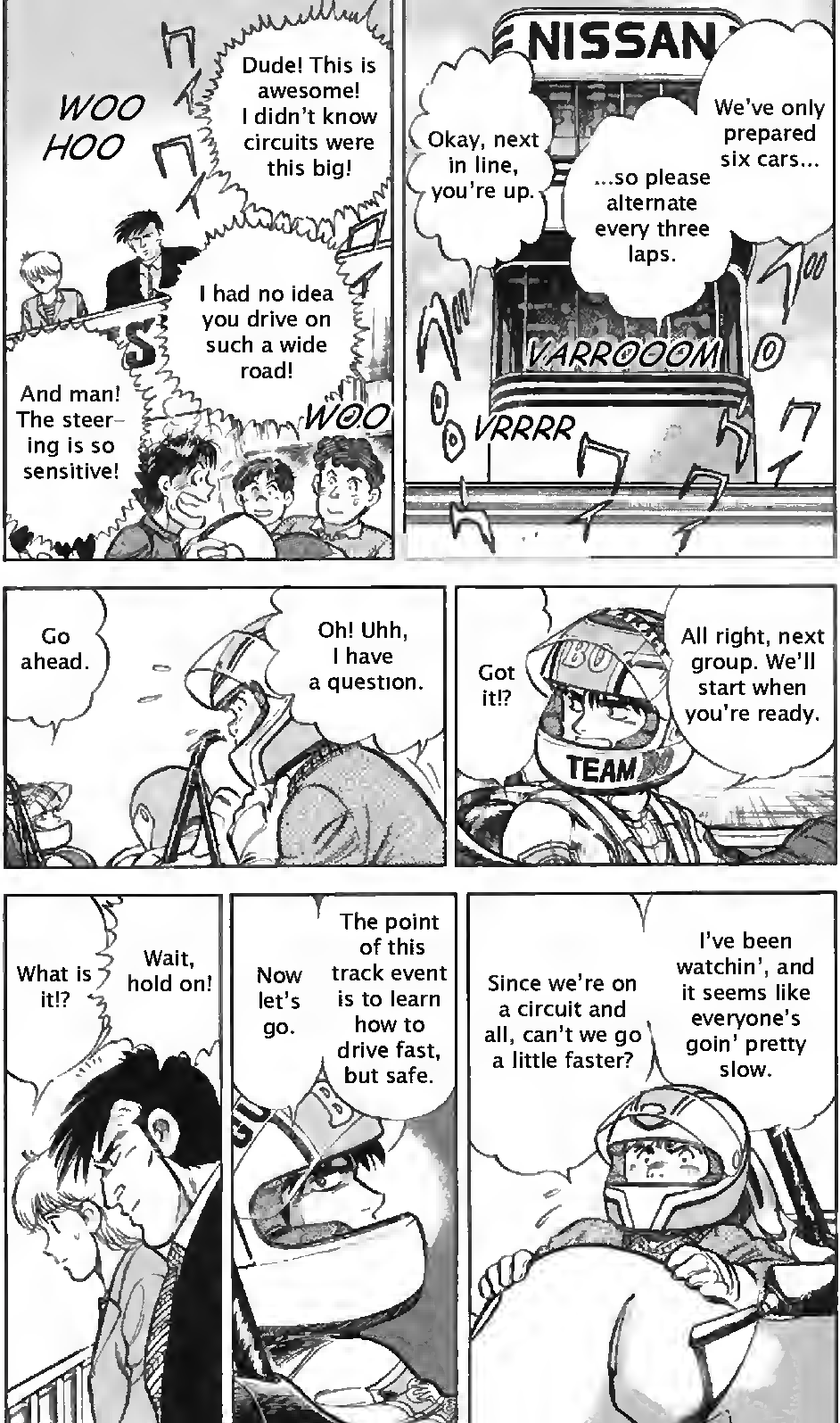

VRRVRR

Uh...
Yes.

...

AOAOO
VROOM
VROOOM
Well, that's good to hear.
BREEH

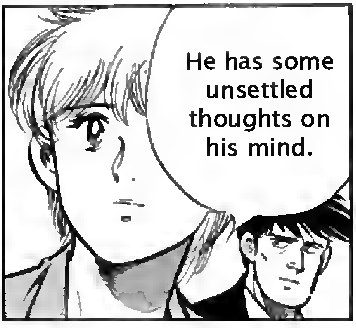

VROOM
VROOM
VRRR
Maybe that's...
BO
GUNMA AKAGI
TEAM
...just what he needs right now


WOO HOO
Dude! This is awesome! I didn't know circuits were this big!
I had no idea you drive on such a wide road!
And man! The steering is so sensitive!
WOO
NISSAN
Okay, next in line, you're up.
...so please alternate every three laps.
We've only prepared six cars...
VARROOOM
VRRRR
Go ahead.
Oh! Uhh, I have a question.
Got it!?
All right, next group. We'll start when you're ready.
TEAM
What is it!?
Wait, hold on!
Now let's go.
The point of this track event is to learn how to drive fast, but safe.
Since we're on a circuit and all, can't we go a little faster?
I've been watchin', and it seems like everyone's goin' pretty slow.

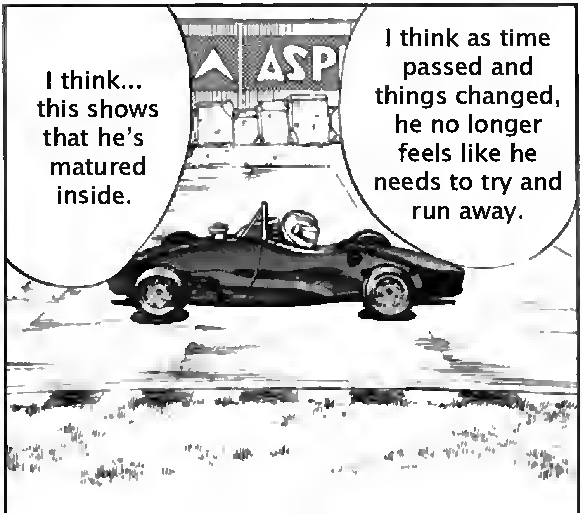
Let's instead focus on the basics. Driving, cornering, and stopping. Okay then...
You can't keep up with me.
All right, how about ...
I was thinkin' you could like, drive a little faster, you know? And see how far we can keep up!
I get that and all, but I mean, we have this amazing chance to drive behind you, an F3000 driver!
I drive pretty fast on mountain roads, and I got some good technique, and like...
Well... No... Not really, but...
Do you plan on becoming a racer, kid?
...if I get a chance to, can I pass you?
All right, then! Let's get started!
VRRROOM
For today, please try to learn the basics, so that you'll learn to drive safer on mountain roads!
This track event is not a race.
...
VROOM VROOOM
Is that really Gunma talking?
Pfft...

BREEEHHH
How's he doing, anyway?
Is he getting some of his old mojo back?

...or to get as far away from those thoughts as he can.
Up until now, I think he's just been trying to ignore them by driving as fast as he can...


He has some unsettled thoughts on his mind.

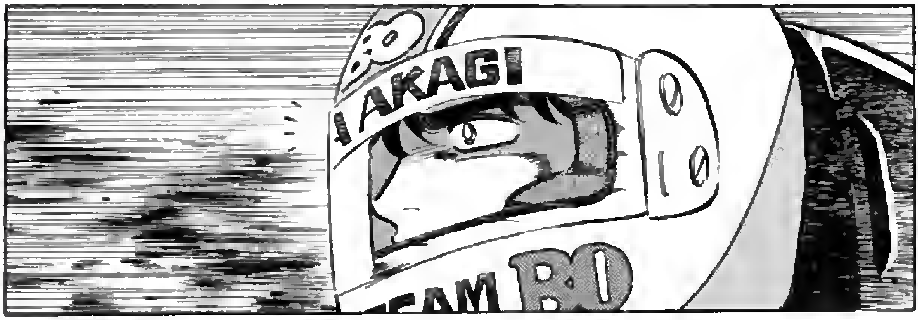
I see...
...

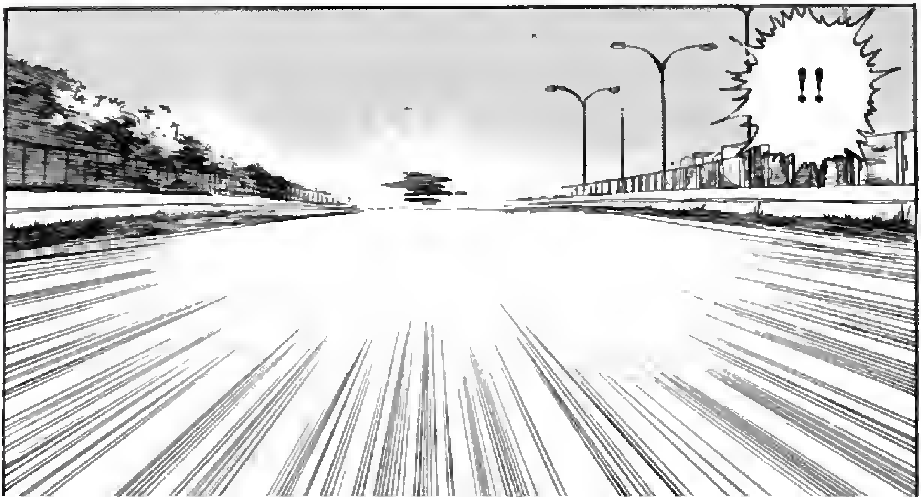

I think... this shows that he's matured inside.
I think as time passed and things changed, he no longer feels like he needs to try and run away.

Those who race out of hunger are satisfied after one victory. Then, it's all downhill.
There was a world champion boxer once, who said he always imagined his new house he bought...
...as he threw punch after punch.
So he's matured and mellowed out... That's why he talks like that, huh?
You know what they say about how people in any kind of sports always hunger for victory?
Well, I can't stand it when I hear that.
You do it to pursue something, constantly.
You don't fight a battle to get something in return.
I can't say he's wrong, but can't love the guy either.
Your way of life.
Pursue ... what?

So, Junko.
Has he really been racing all this time just to get away, to escape?
BO
GUMA AKAGI

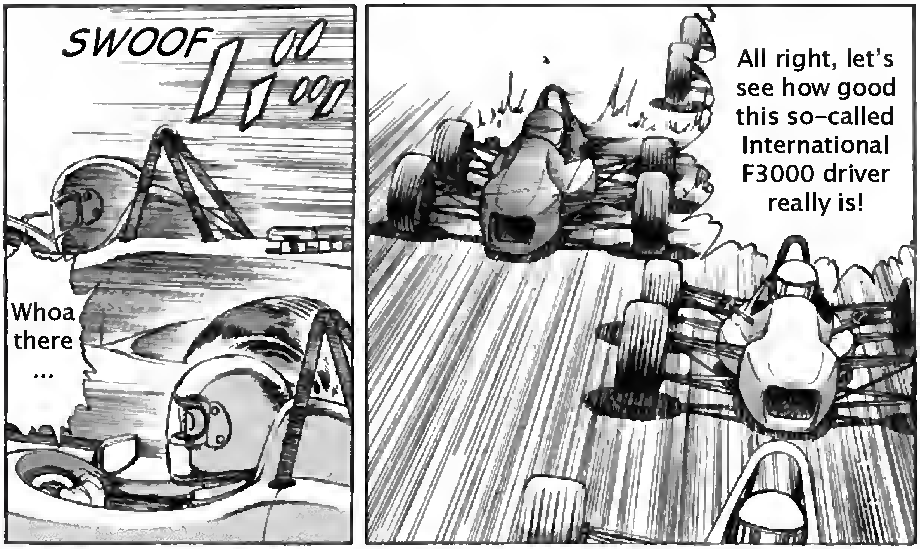
I don't know.
Oh... I...
NMA AKAG

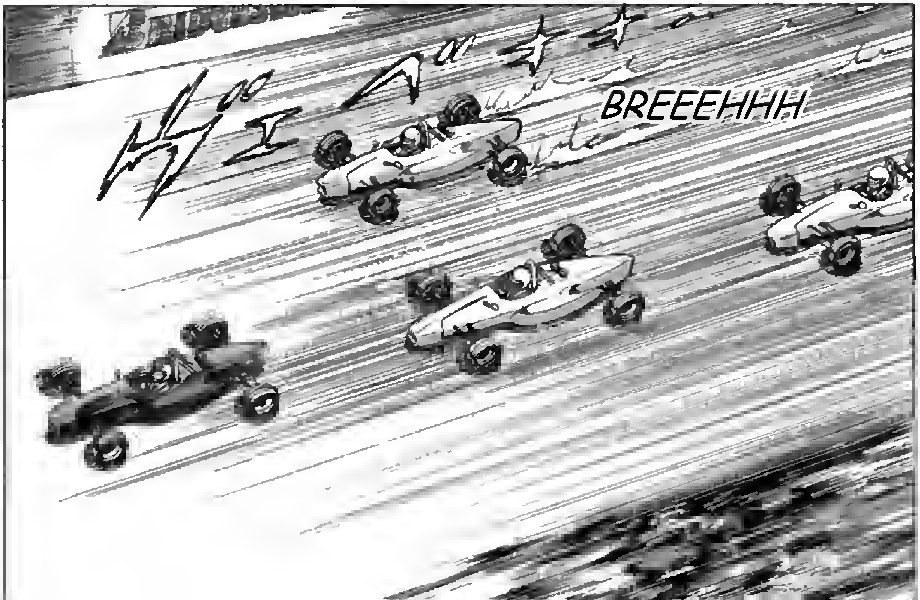

AKAGI


!!

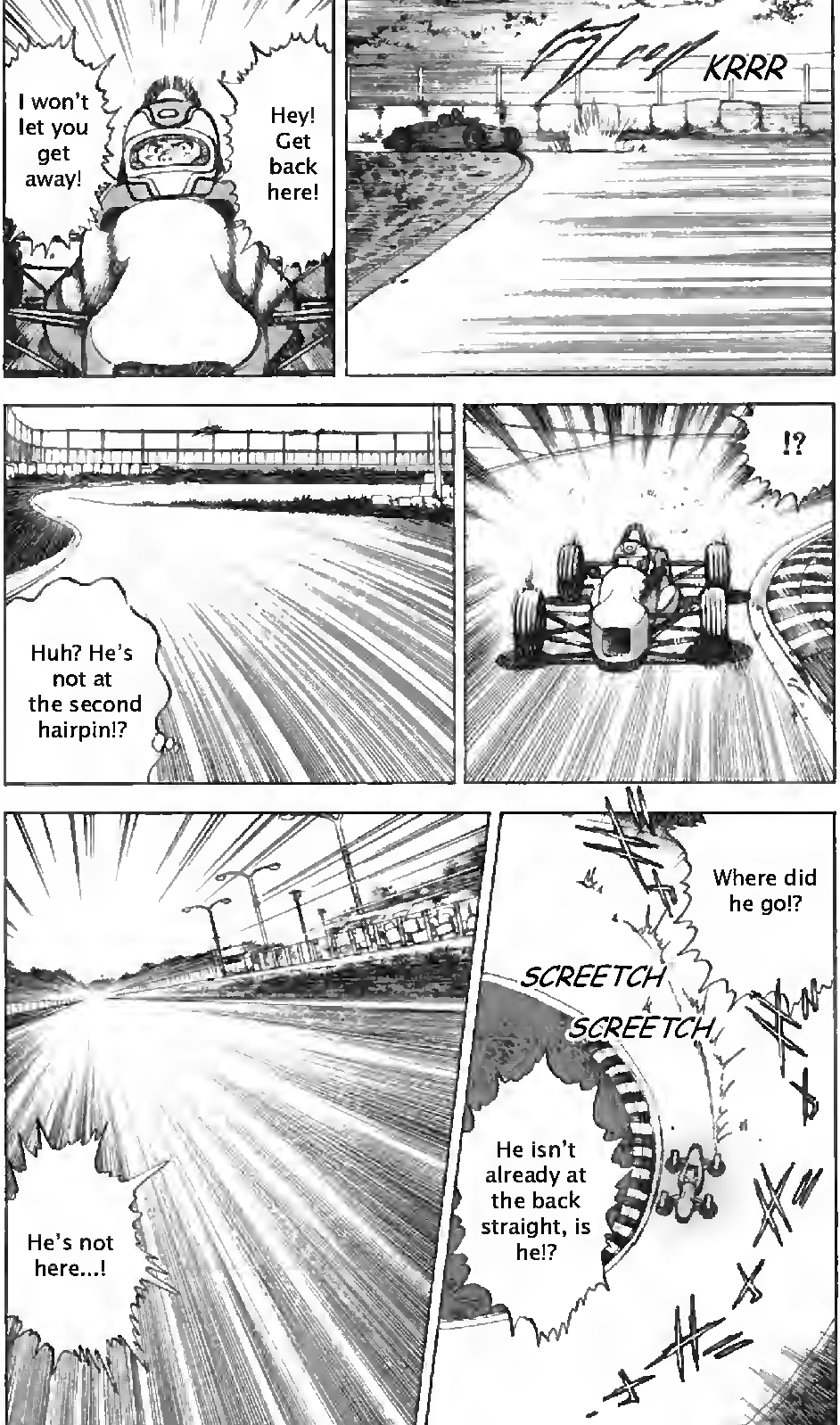
Yeah. When he's passed all other cars and has made it to top position...
...he sees another car ahead of him, like a shadow.
Not a car that's a lap behind, but a shadow he hasn't passed yet.
Although... One time, he told me...
...that he sees a black shadow.
A black shadow!?
... Huh.
He was wondering what that shadow was.
I ain't gonna drive around this circuit like some sheep in a flock!
He doesn't know how fast I drive on those mountain roads!
"You can't keep up with me." My ass!
Tsk...
Thinkin' he's all that...

Who the hell are you!?
Who are you...?
There it is again...


SWOOF
Whoa there ...
All right, let's see how good this so-called International F3000 driver really is!


BREEEHHH

Heh, he picked up his pace a little...
Can't let an amateur like me pass you, can ya!?
BRAAA
This is gettin' fun! I'm gonna chase this F3000 driver around!
Who are you...?
VRRREHH

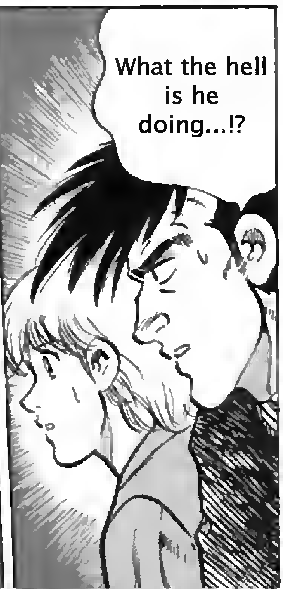

I won't let you get away!
Hey! Get back here!
KRRR
Huh? He's not at the second hairpin!?
!?
He's not here...!
Where did he go!?
SCREETCH
SCREETCH
He isn't already at the back straight, is he!?

ZOOOM
SUZUKI
SPORT

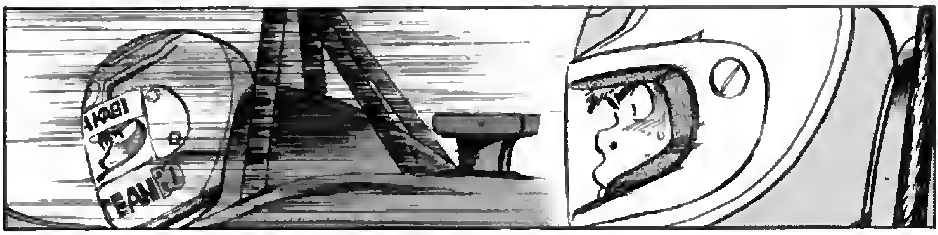
VROOOOOOM
CABIN

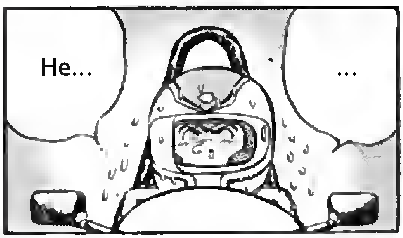
Damn it! Where did you go!?
Where the hell did he go!?

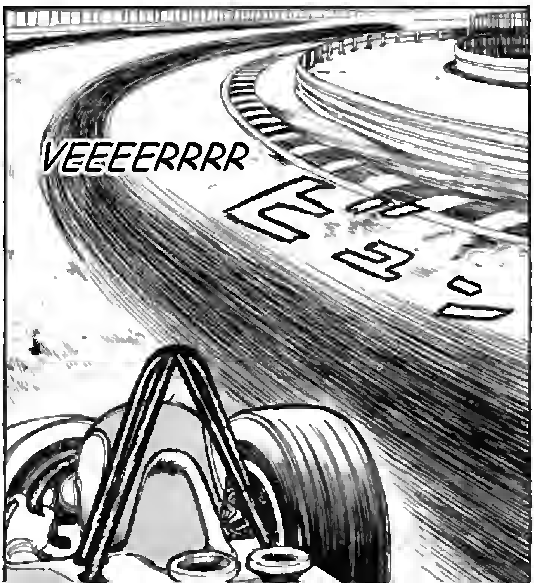
Did you just see that...? This black thing just flew by...
SHIVER

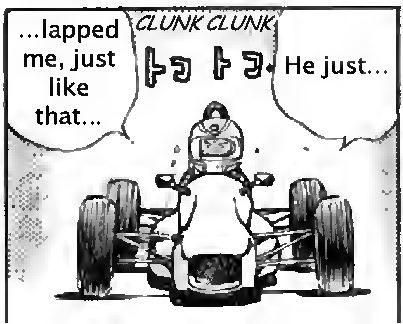

What the hell is he doing...!?

BWOOOSH
BO
SHOMA AKAGI


AKAGI
SAM

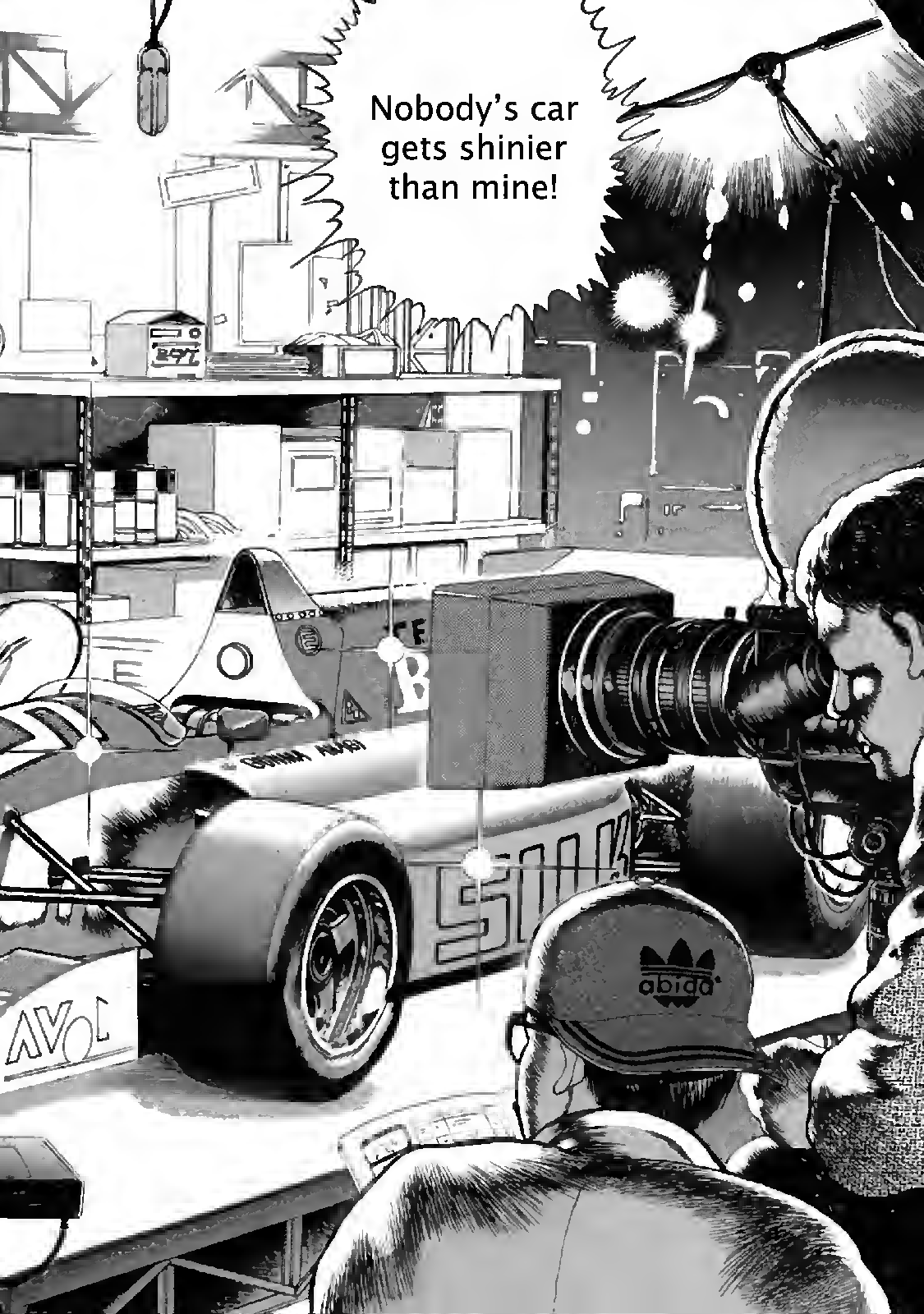

He...
...


VEEEERRRR


...lapped me, just like that...
CLUNK CLUNK
He just...

BSHOO
Nobody
...
And I
mean...
...
nobody
...
Chapter 11:
Passing Landscape

My secret? This! Soft 999, the one-shot lime-scale remover!
Nobody's car gets shinier than mine!
Chapter 11:
Passing-Landscape

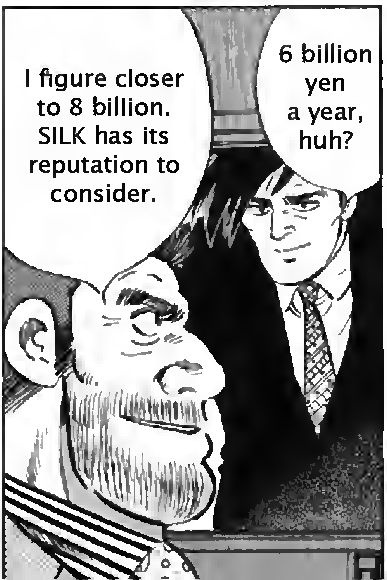

Nobody's car gets shinier than mine!
abida

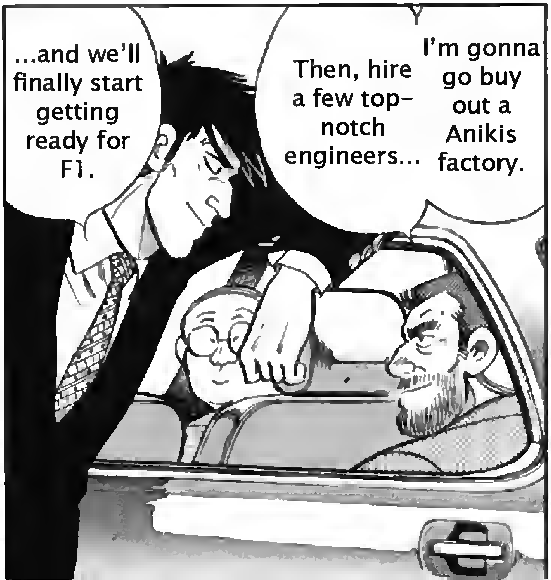
My secret? This! Soft 999, the one-shot lime-scale remover!
Chapter 11:
Passing-Landscape

2
Heh, I love these Japanese companies. They went right for the bait.
Gunma's name is getting big now. Looks like his close battle for championship with Jesus, who's racing F1 now, is really appealing to these guys.

I'm gonna head back over to England, Kuroi.

I got a call from the CEO last night, reminding us that they're our main sponsor.
It's not quite enough to replace SILK, but thanks to that, we'll get SILK to fork over more money no problem.

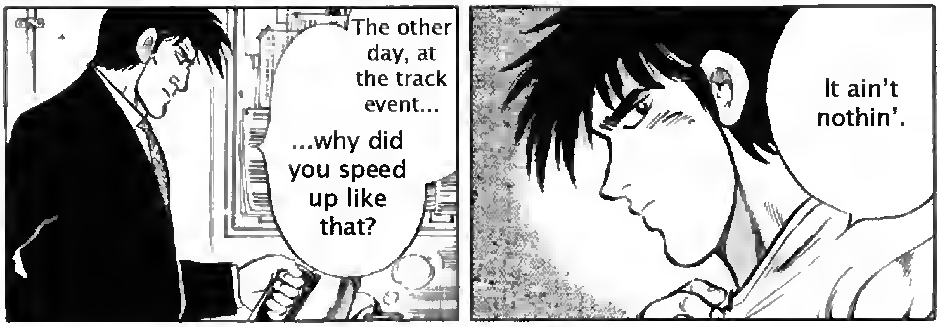

6 billion yen a year, huh?
I figure closer to 8 billion. SILK has its reputation to consider.


...and we'll finally start getting ready for F1.
Then, hire a few top-notch engineers...
I'm gonna go buy out a Anikis factory.

Oh yeah, and one more thing. Let's get him in on an F3000 race in Japan, too. It'll help advertise.
How's Gunma doing? I mean mentally. We gotta get him in as many F3000 races in Europe as we can. Meanwhile, we gotta test out Tamotsu Special, too. It's gonna get busy.
I'll leave all the money business to you, then.
Man, you busy fellas!
All right, Yasu. Thanks for helping out.
Kuroi ...
You come along soon too, you hear? I'll fill you in on the details then.
Oops, look at the time. I gotta catch my flight.
Show me your hand.
Like this?
Uh... My hand?

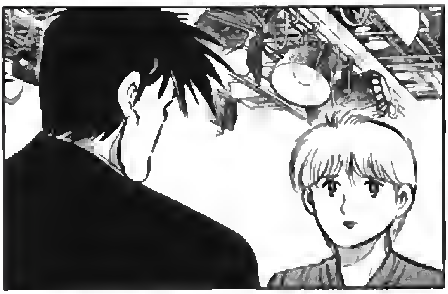
Whoa, what are you two, lovers now?
There's an aura in between our hands.
You see it?
Can't see anything...
See it?
... except a rainbow!

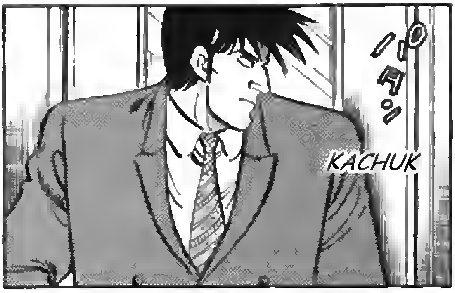
K. CHUK
So you're a celebrity now, huh?
Pff.
Where's Gunma?
He's chan-ging.
Good work!
Thanks!

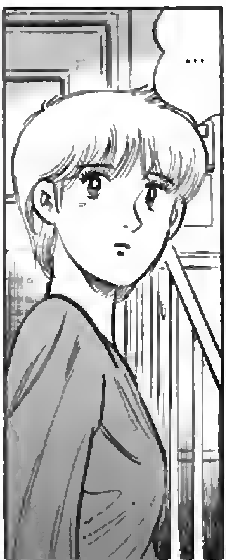

The other day, at the track event...
...why did you speed up like that?
It ain't nothin'.

You starting to feel that fire again?
I got my rea-sons.
Heh heh...

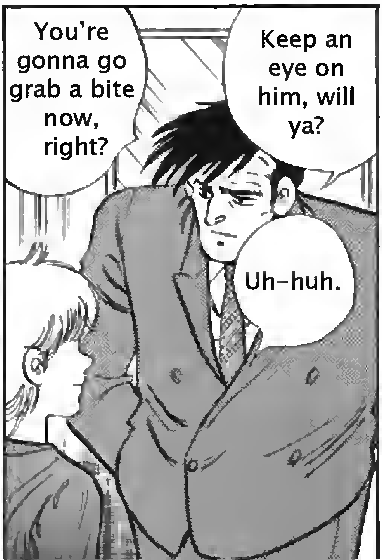
I'm ready to race any time.
Yeah...

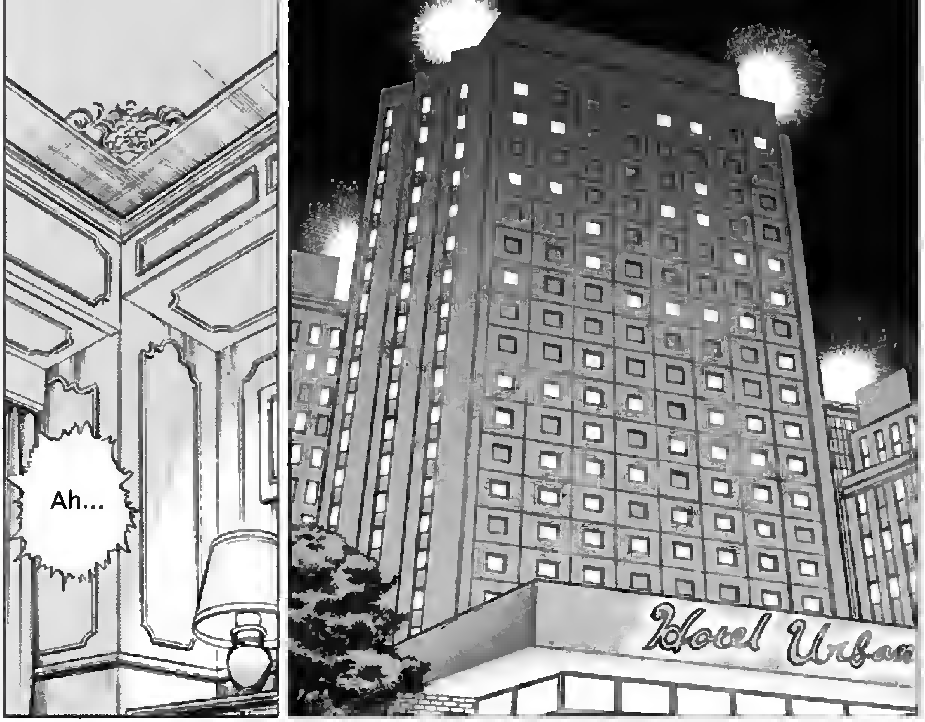


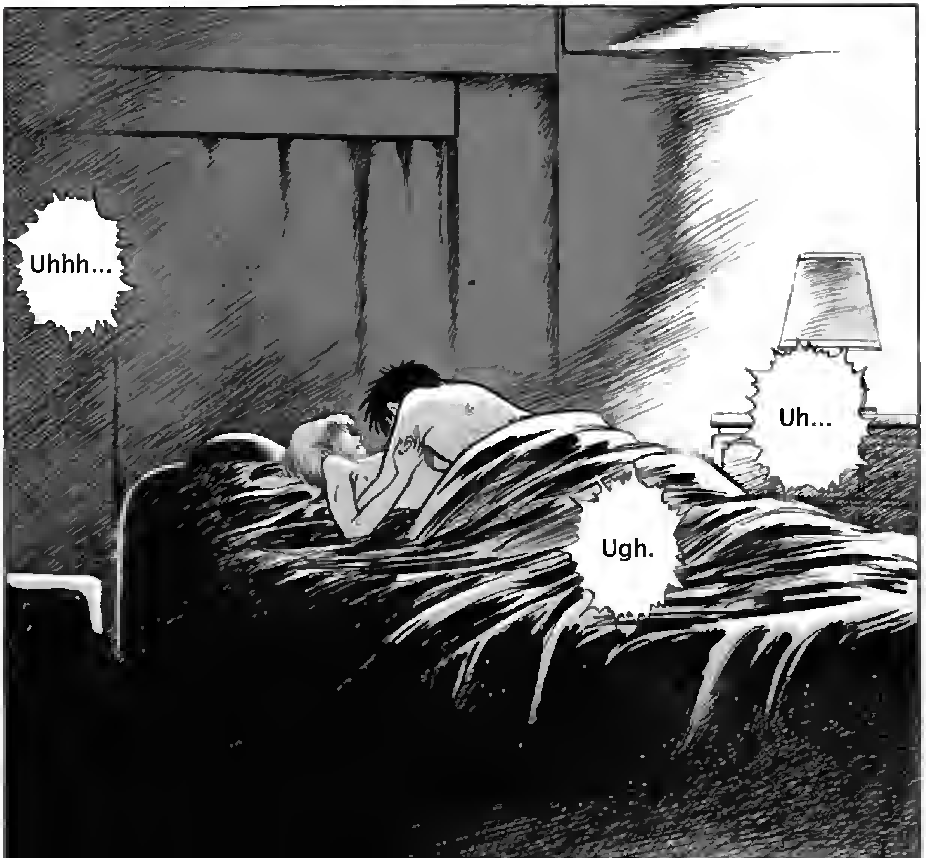

KACHUK

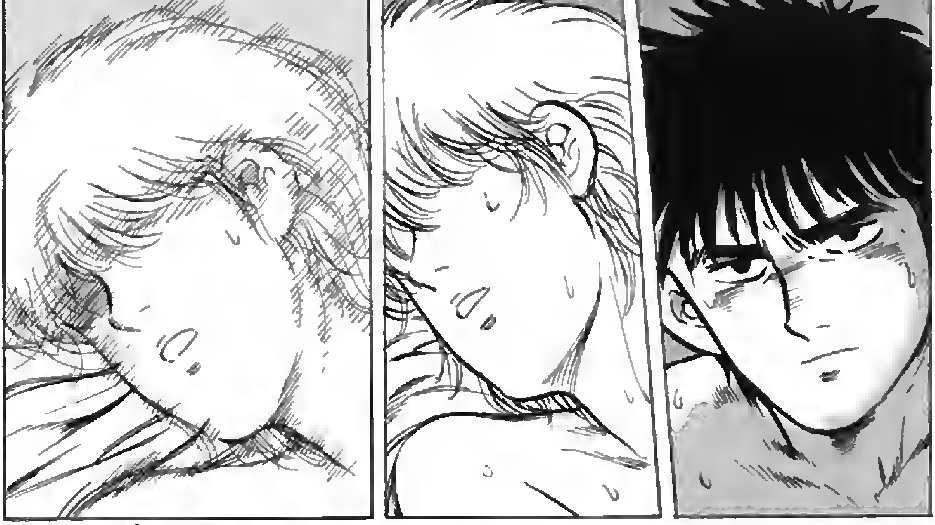

...

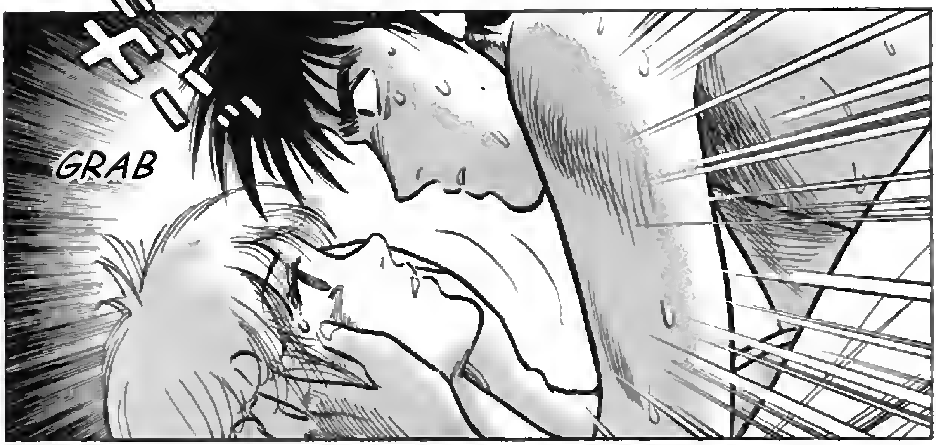
Thanks, but I'll take a rain check. I gotta go home, it's been a while.
Would you like to join?


You're gonna go grab a bite now, right?
Keep an eye on him, will ya?
Uh-huh.


Ah...
Hotel Urban

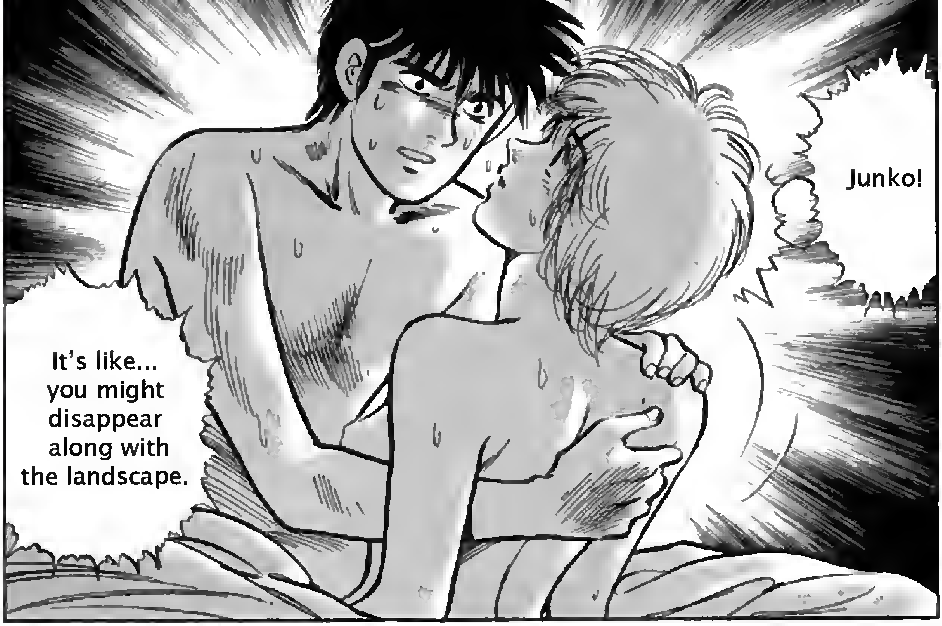

Uhhh...
Uh...
Ugh.

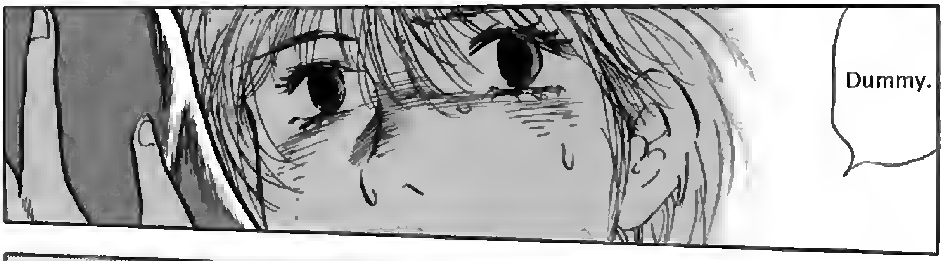



GRAB

Sucks...

All you see is the landscape in the distance, or the landscape behind you in the rear-view mirror.
How come?
You're moving too fast to see where you actually are, here and now.
Huh?
I said it sucks to be a racer.
... anything.
You can't see...
Would it have been better... if none of this had happened?
... really.
...


Junko!
It's like... you might disappear along with the landscape.


Dummy.

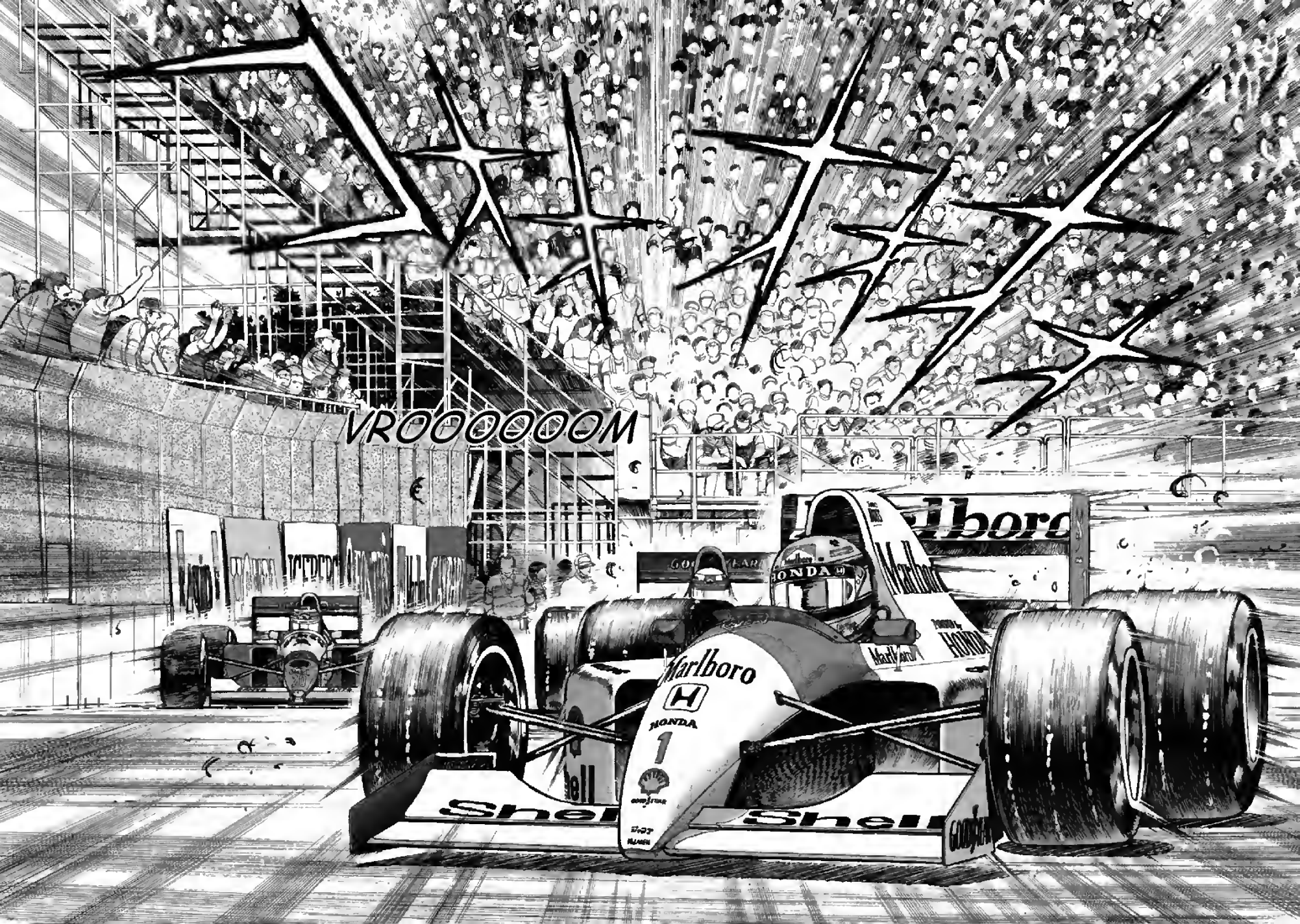
The other day, at the track event...
That shadow ahead of me...

I saw it again...
I... didn't mention anything to Kuroi, but...

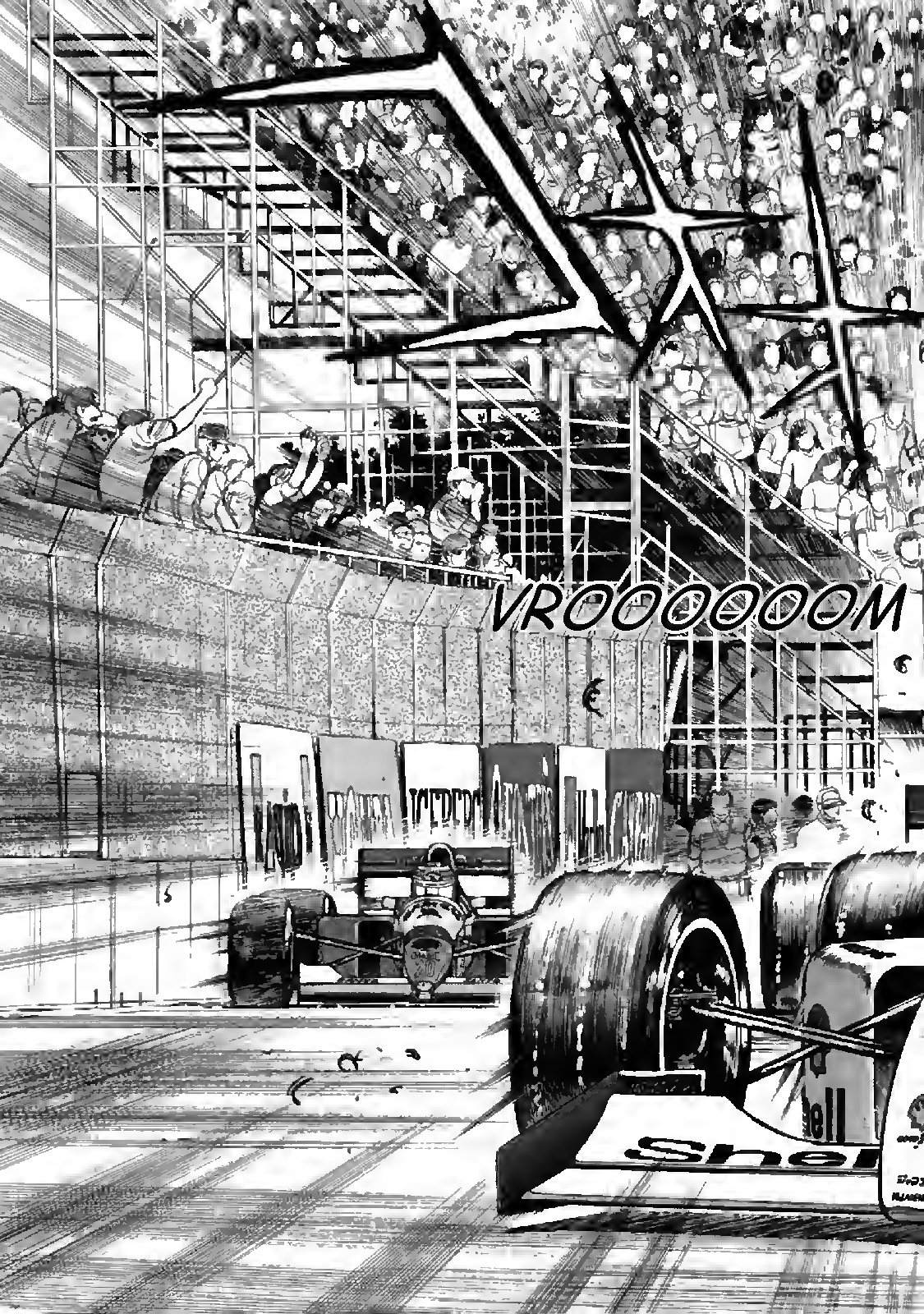
I said maybe you were running away from some unsettled thoughts. Then he said...
I talked to Mr. Kuroi about that.
...that you weren't running away, but pursuing something.
What...
...is that?
...is you, Gunma.
I think the shadow you see moving ahead of you...

We're back.
HA HA HA
HA HA
So nice to meet you, I'm Ryoko.
Oh, uhh... This... is my fiancée.
Hey.
Huh?
You came just in time. Go on, introduce her!

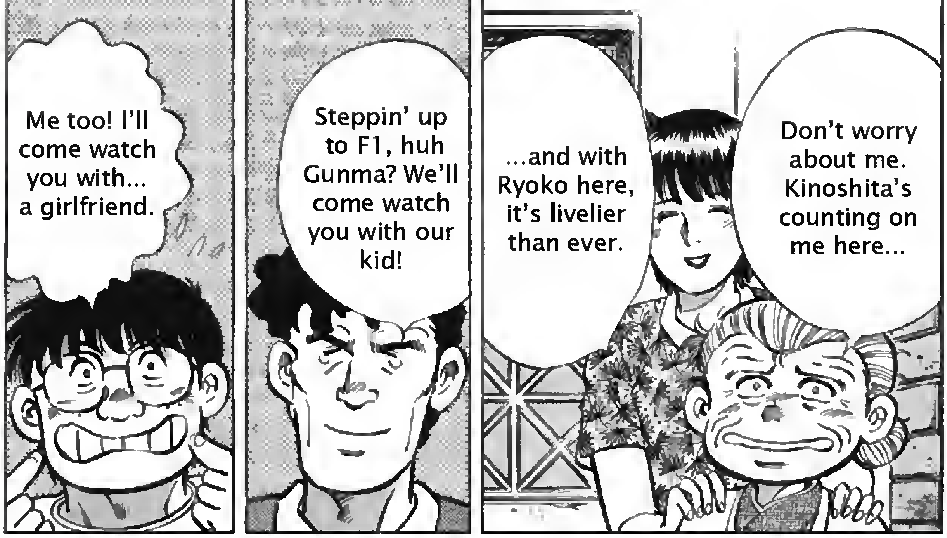
Kinoshita, this good-for-nothing dunce...
Listen to this, Junko.
...Is saying that he's gonna stay in this apartment even after getting married.
Well, you know. Rent's cheap.
She's a little cutie!
Nice to meet you too!
Oh! Yeah, ha ha ha...
Basically, he just wants to use me as a babysitter.
He gets himself a beauty like this one here, but he insists on staying. So I told him off, but...
Wouldn't ya know it? She's already three months pregnant!
Check it out, Gunma! It's on!
Oh come on, Granny. We both gotta work for a while, you know. So...
Boy, things are gonna get busy. Phew!
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA

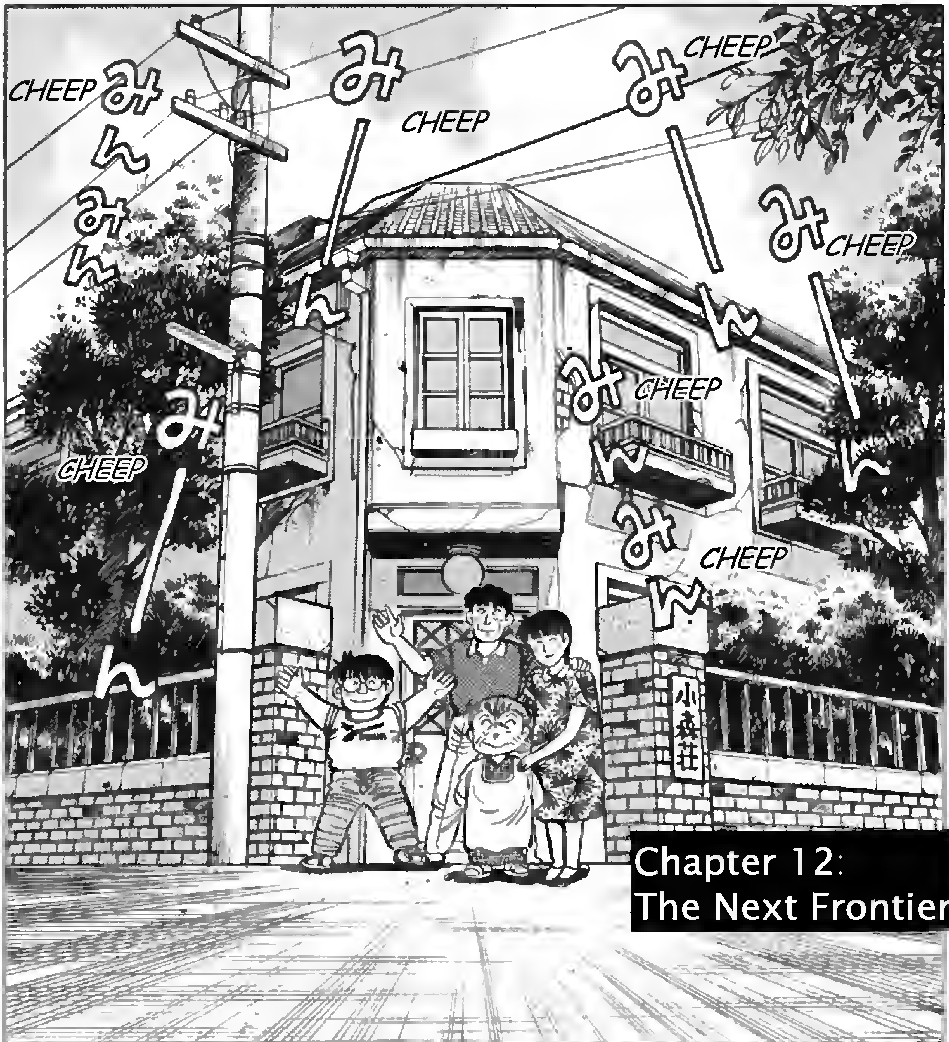

VROOOOOOM
Marlboro
HONDA
1
Shell
GOODYEAR

Marlboro
HONDA
Marlboro
HONDA
1
Shell


VROOOOOOOM
Shell

I guess I should renovate this place a bit. Make it more suitable for newly-weds.
Oh, quit your sulking.
Hmph.
BRAAAA
IC
Your rival's in sixth place.
...dad?
Where'd you run off to...


Me too! I'll come watch you with... a girlfriend.
Steppin' up to F1, huh Gunma? We'll come watch you with our kid!
...and with Ryoko here, it's livelier than ever.
Don't worry about me. Kinoshita's counting on me here...


CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
小森荘
Chapter 12:
The Next Frontier

ゴォォォ
VEEEEEE
You guys go off to Japan by yourselves...
Anyway, it's done!
What're you doin', Gunma? Don't you wanna race no more!?
Our car is finally finished! I mean, there's still some room for improvement, but...
...leaving me here like this.
BRITISH AIRWAYS

Chapter 12: The Next Frontier

VEEEEEEE
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BRITISH AIRWAYS

Chapter 12: The Next Frontier

ゴォォ
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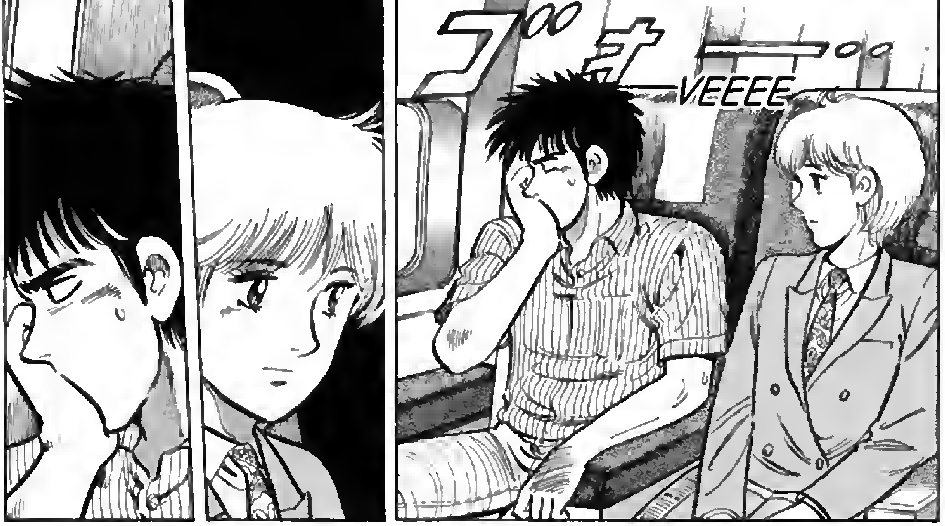
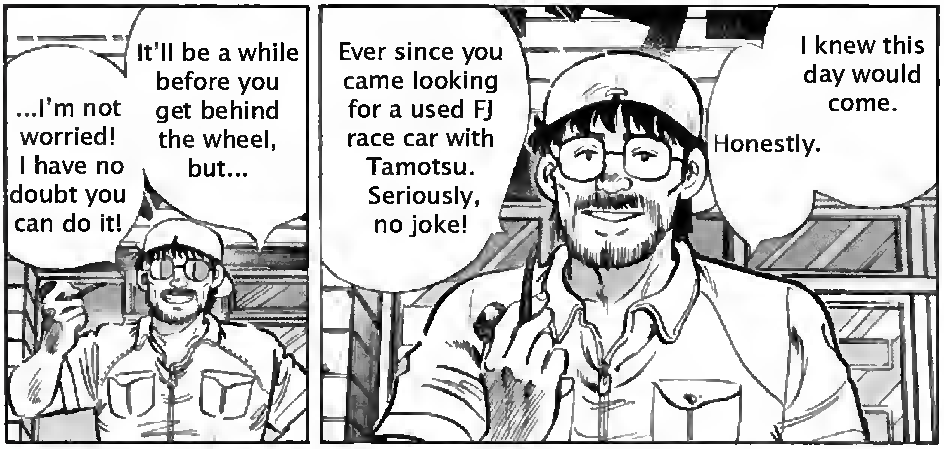
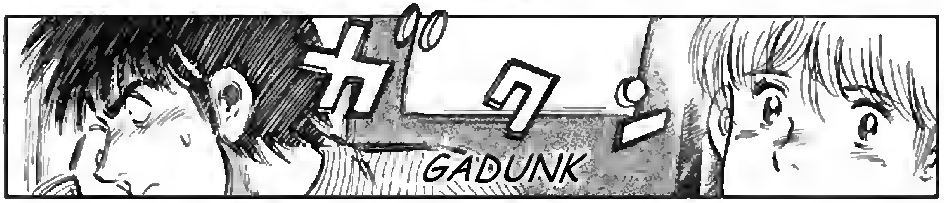
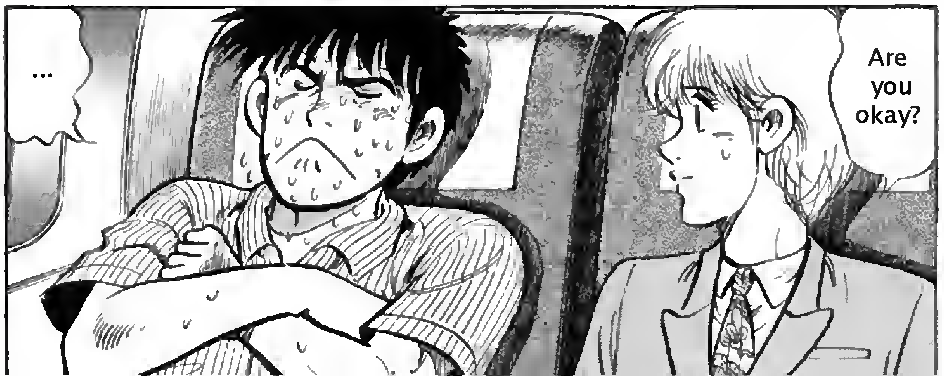
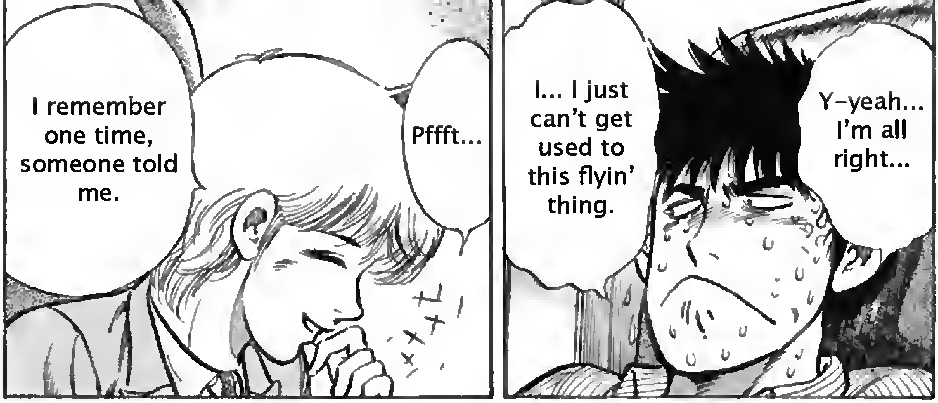
...leaving me here like this.

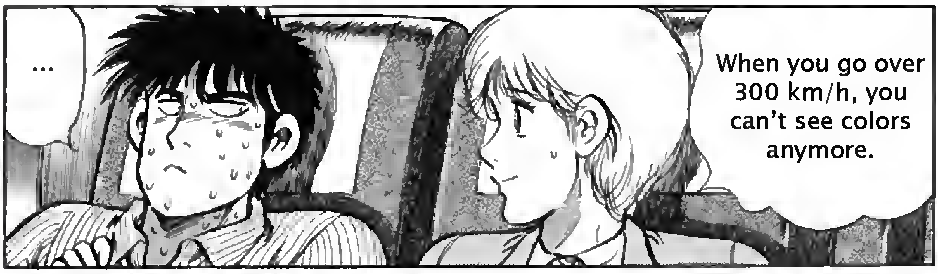

VEEEE

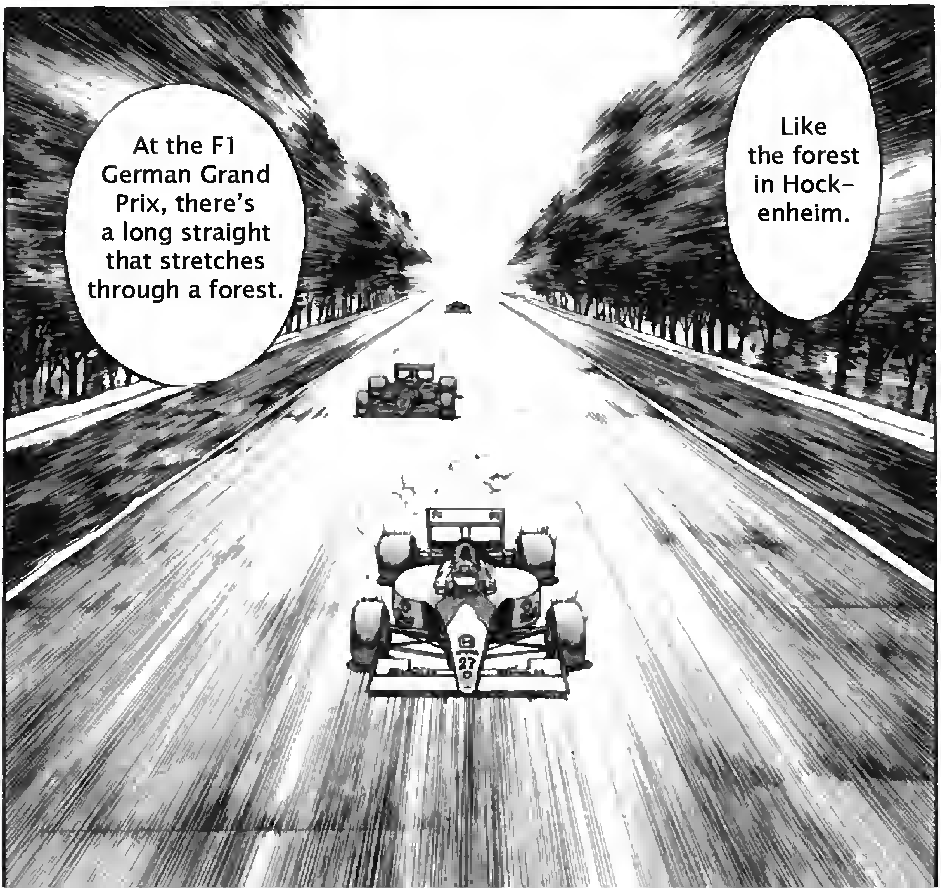

...I'm not worried! I have no doubt you can do it!
It'll be a while before you get behind the wheel, but...
Ever since you came looking for a used FJ race car with Tamotsu. Seriously, no joke!
I knew this day would come.
Honestly.


GADUNK


...
Are you okay?


I remember one time, someone told me.
Pffft...
I... I just can't get used to this flyin' thing.
Y-yeah... I'm all right...


...
When you go over 300 km/h, you can't see colors anymore.


At the F1 German Grand Prix, there's a long straight that stretches through a forest.
Like the forest in Hock-enheim.

...
...the forest stops being green.
I heard you can really see it when you race there, but apparently ...

The scenery around you streams past you, and colors merge.
They say it's like driving through a grey tunnel.

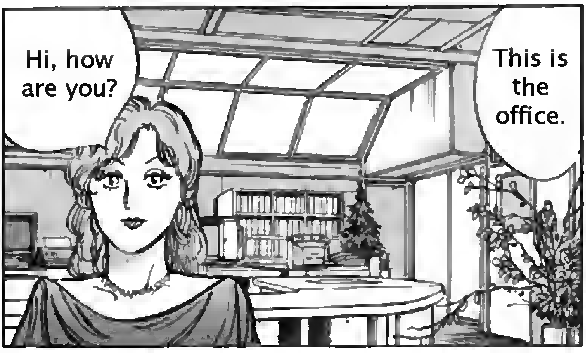
You're moving too fast to see where you actually are, right there and then.
All you see is the landscape in the distance, or the landscape behind you in the rear-view mirror.
You said the other night that it sucks to be a race car driver.
But that wasn't what was so interesting about that story. It was the driver who experienced it.
A grey tunnel, huh...?
That reminded me of this story...
Those who release the accelera-tor a little...
...and those who step on it a little more, to try to pass through this tunnel.
Without paying any mind to the other cars around them, of course.
I heard that after they experience this phenomenon at over 300 km/h, they split into two groups.

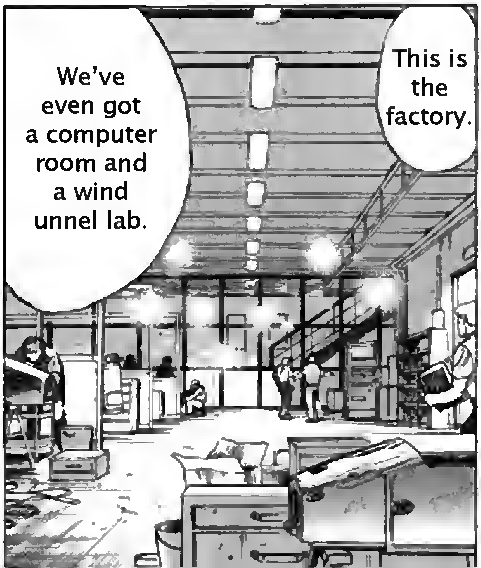
What ...!?
What hap- pens?
I heard...
And then, something happens to those who decide to step on that pedal.
NO SMOKIN
FASTEN SEA
Only those who experienced it can ever know.
They say... it's an experience that can't be put in to words.
...
!?
...you feel like you just wanna up and die.
I bet that's similar to moments when...
VWOOSH
21 00
00

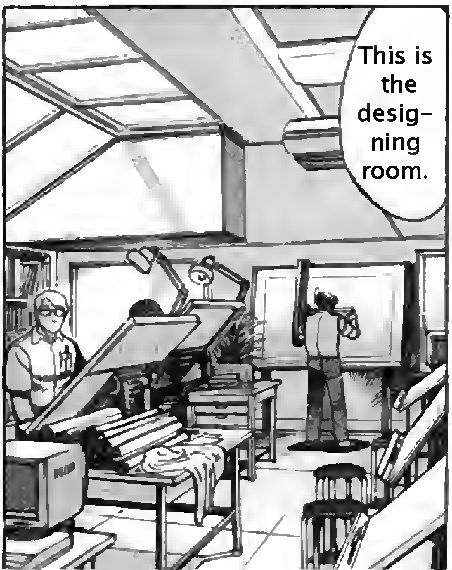
ゴォォォ
VEEEEEW

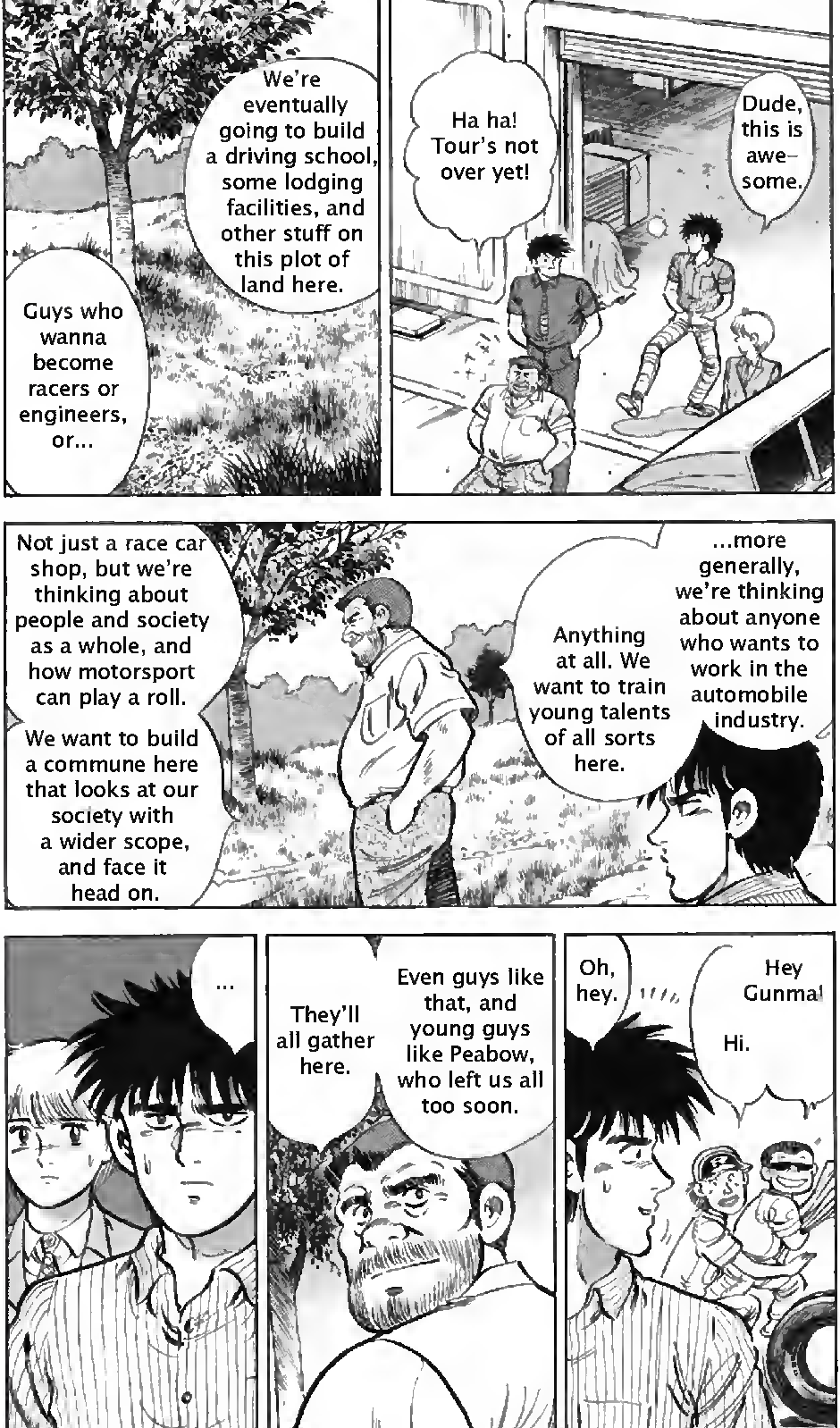
CHEEP
TWEET
TWEET
CHEEP
CHEEP
So this is the GOKT Factory, huh?
Whoa, man!
GOKT

How's busi-ness?
This is Cathy, the secretary. She's lived in Osaka before.


Hi, how are you?
This is the office.

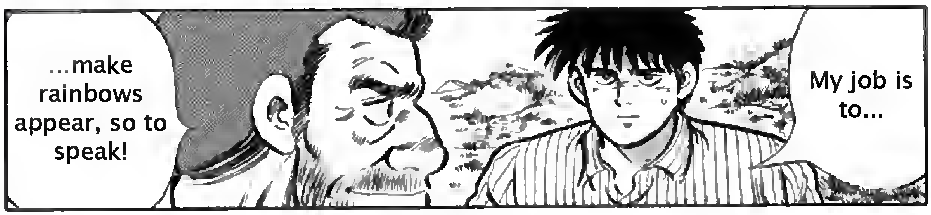

We've even got a computer room and a wind unnel lab.
This is the factory.


This is the desig-ning room.

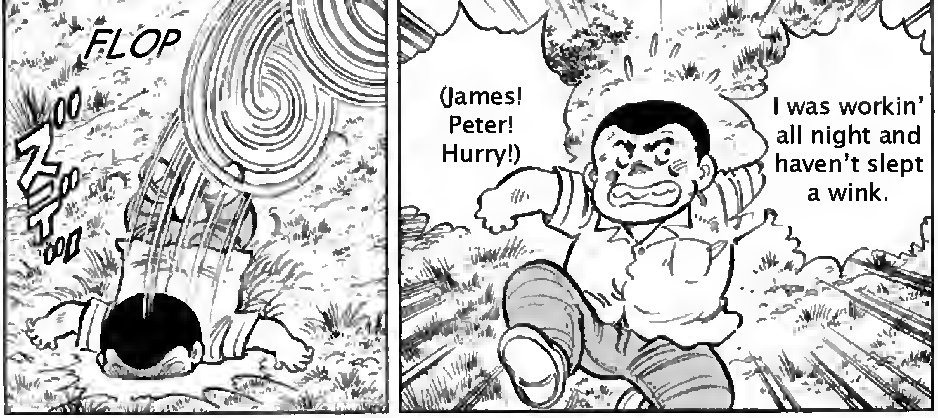

We're eventually going to build a driving school, some lodging facilities, and other stuff on this plot of land here.
Guys who wanna become racers or engineers, or...
Ha ha! Tour's not over yet!
Dude, this is awe-some.
Not just a race car shop, but we're thinking about people and society as a whole, and how motorsport can play a roll.
We want to build a commune here that looks at our society with a wider scope, and face it head on.
Anything at all. We want to train young talents of all sorts here.
...more generally, we're thinking about anyone who wants to work in the automobile industry.
...
They'll all gather here.
Even guys like that, and young guys like Peabow, who left us all too soon.
Oh, hey.
Hey Gunma!
Hi.

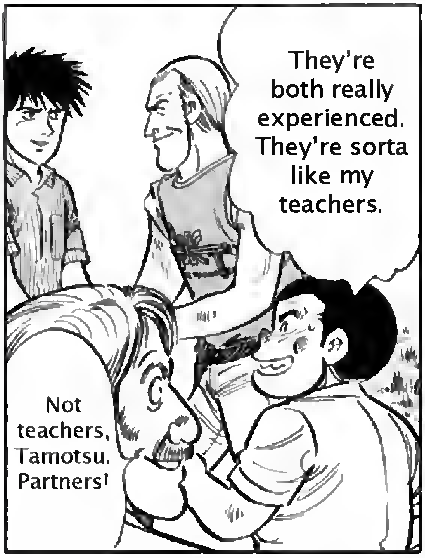
Just like you. You know, I've lost a lot of people who were real close.
Yer always thinkin' big, and deep. Or like... ... maybe yer just a little kooky.
You never fail to surprise, Orman.
HA HA HA

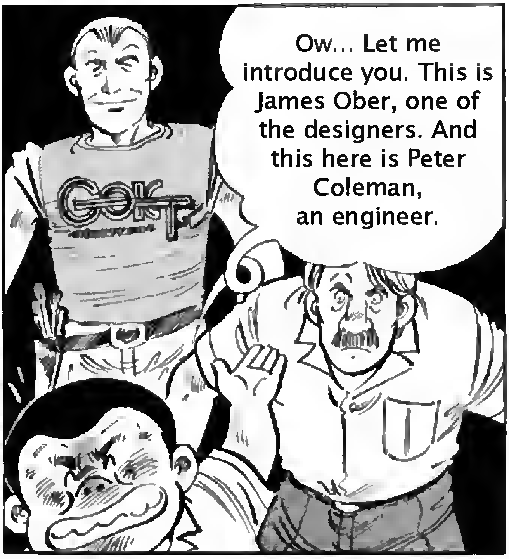
And light stays with us, always.
When people die, they become light.

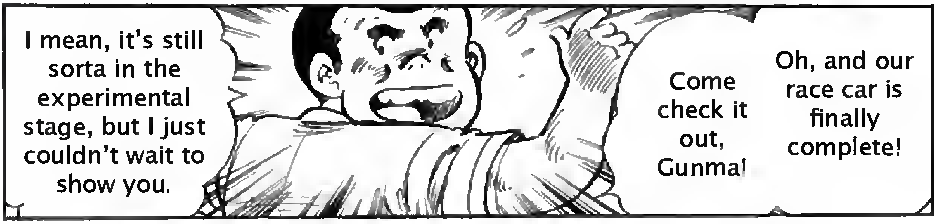

...make rainbows appear, so to speak!
My job is to...

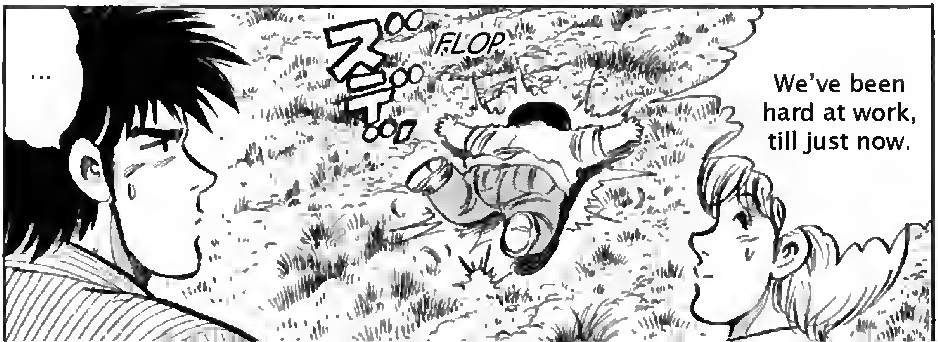
Yo, Tamotsu.
Sorry I couldn't pick you guys up at the airport.
Gunma! Junko!

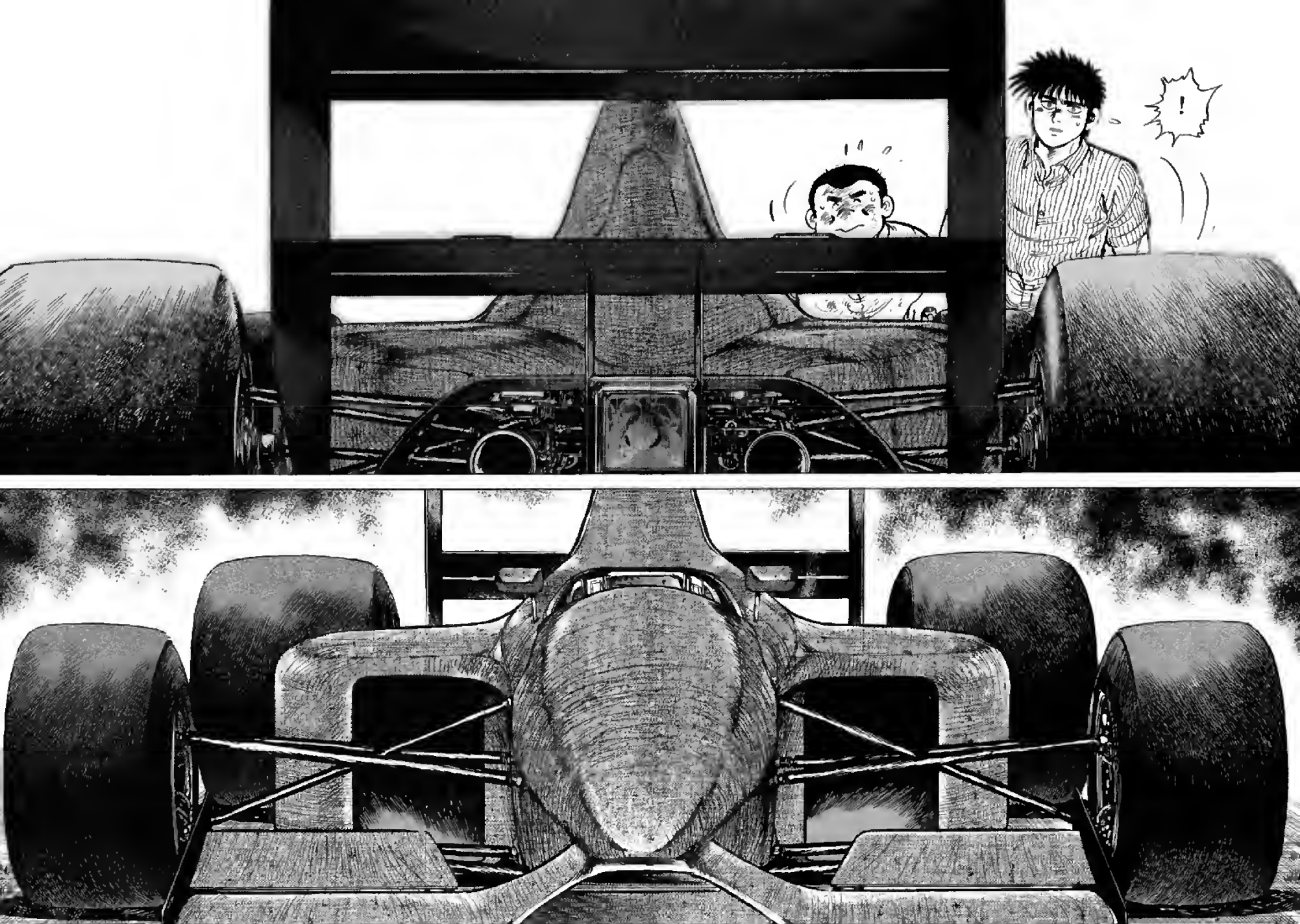

FLOP
(James! Peter! Hurry!)
I was workin' all night and haven't slept a wink.

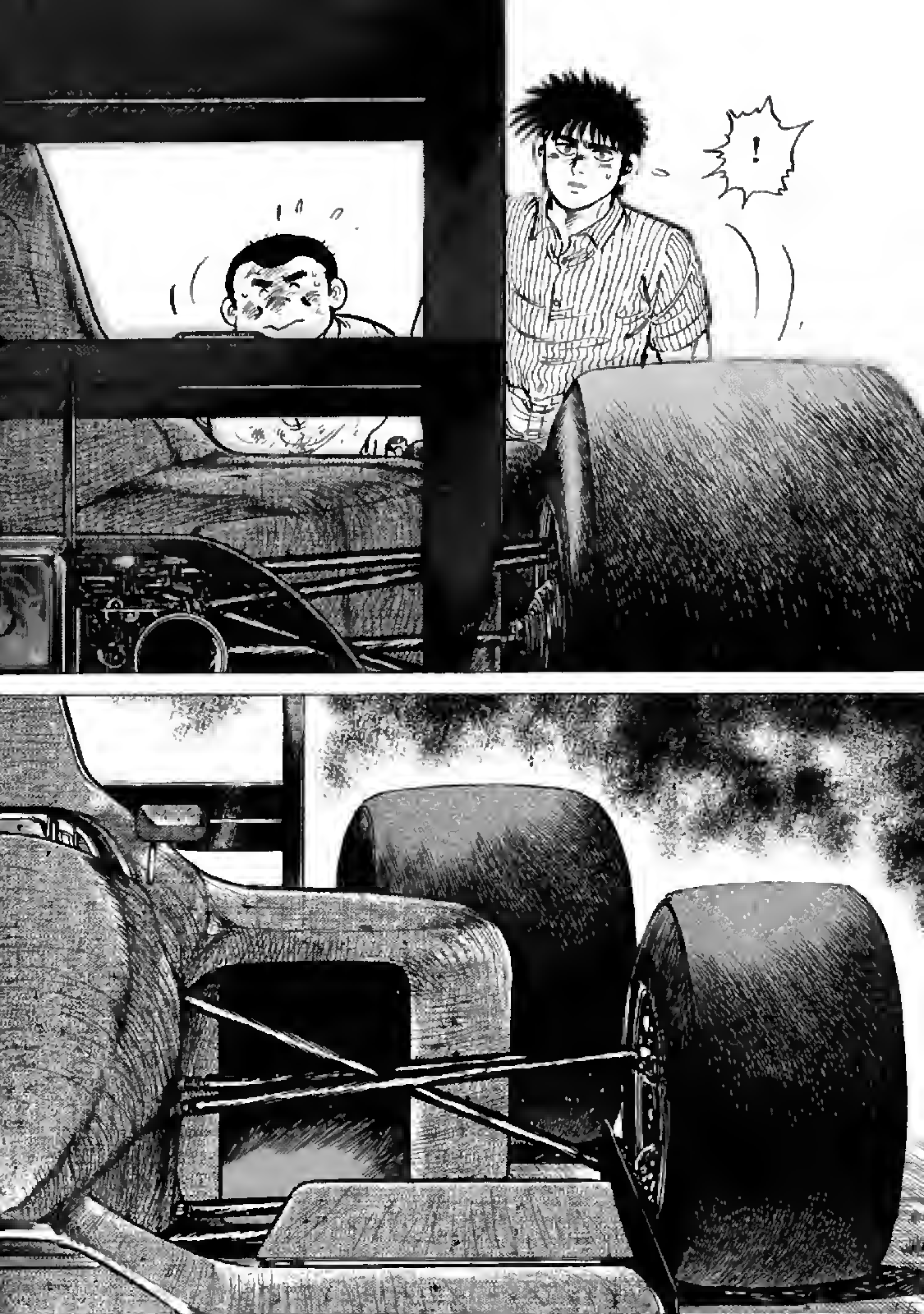

They're both really experienced. They're sorta like my teachers.
Not teachers, Tamotsu. Partners!

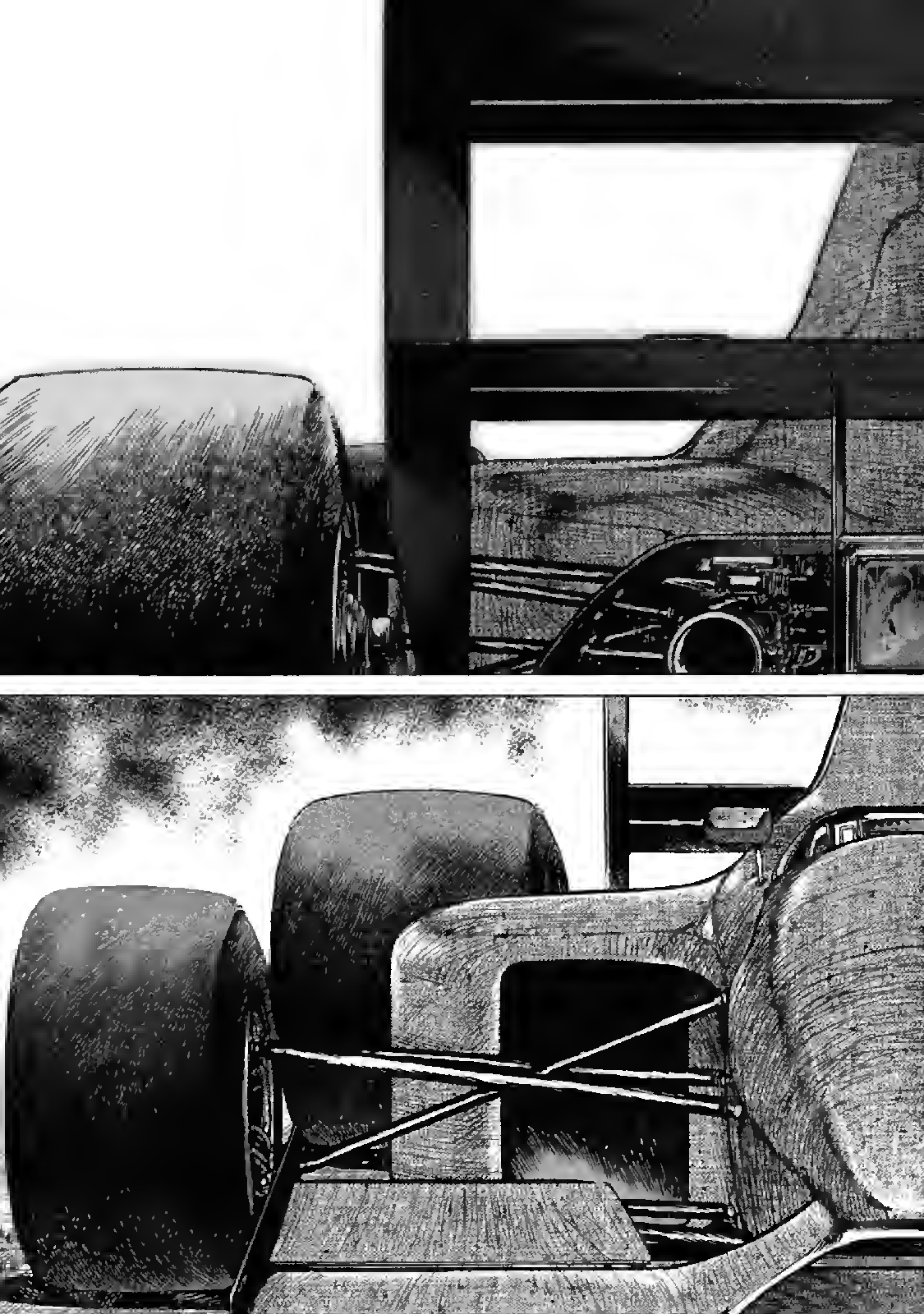

Ow... Let me introduce you. This is James Ober, one of the designers. And this here is Peter Coleman, an engineer.

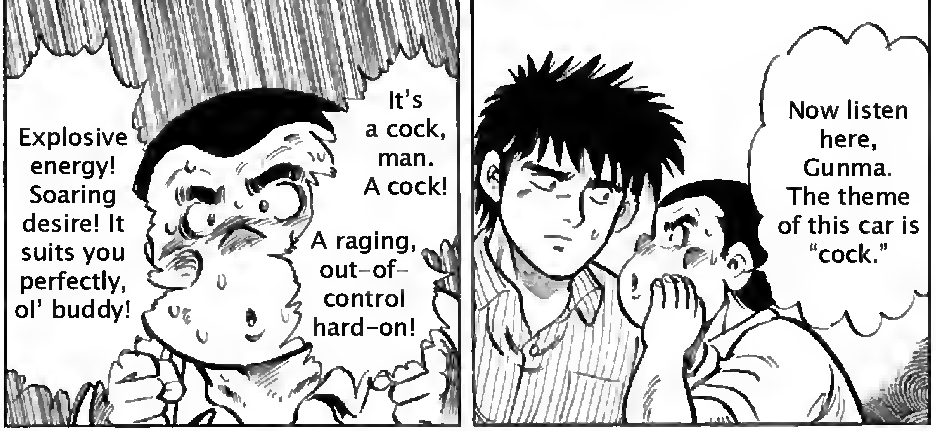

I mean, it's still sorta in the experimental stage, but I just couldn't wait to show you.
Come check it out, Gunma!
Oh, and our race car is finally complete!

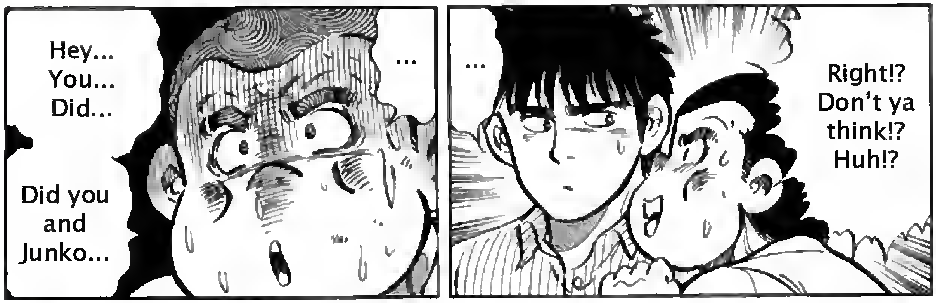

...
FLOP
We've been hard at work, till just now.

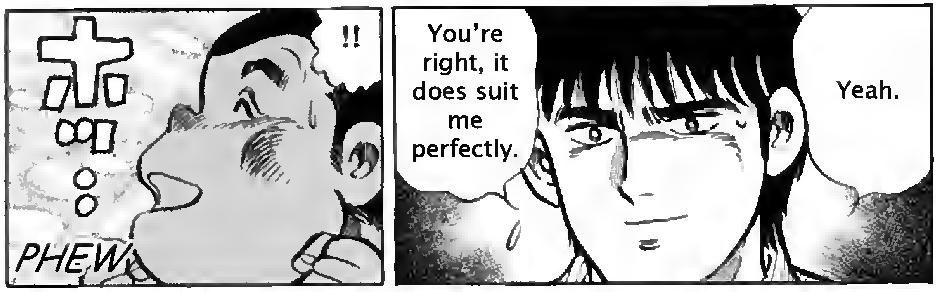


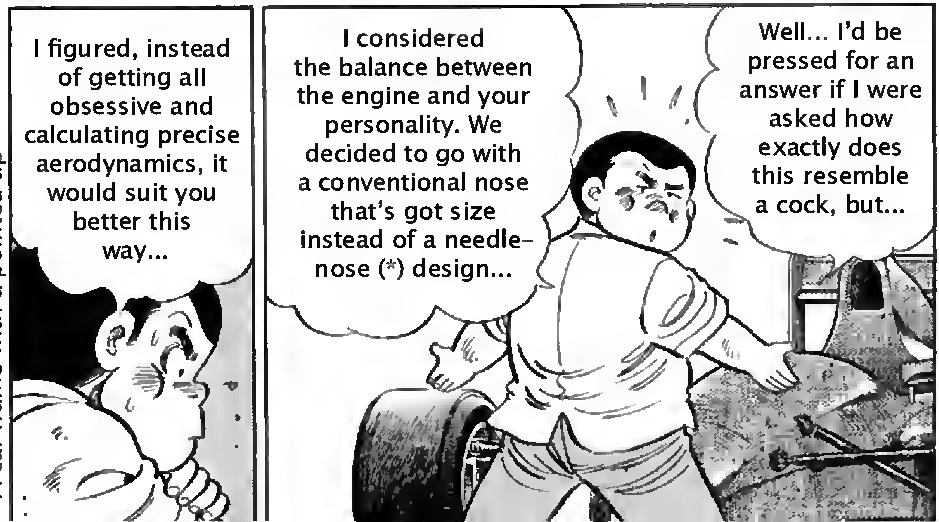




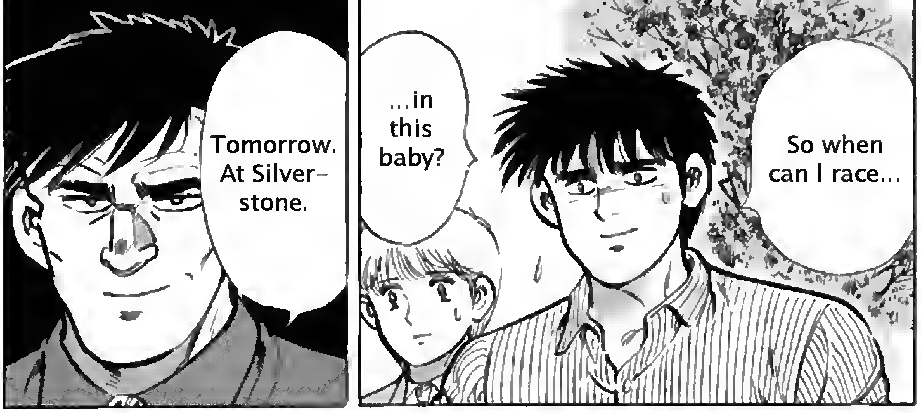

Explosive energy! Soaring desire! It suits you perfectly, ol' buddy!
It's a cock, man. A cock!
A raging, out-of-control hard-on!
Now listen here, Gunma. The theme of this car is "cock."

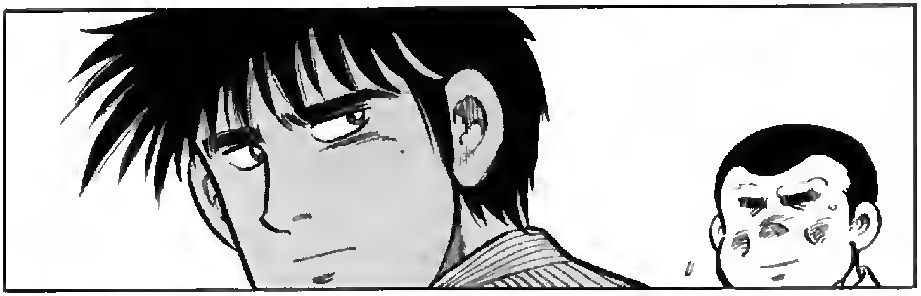


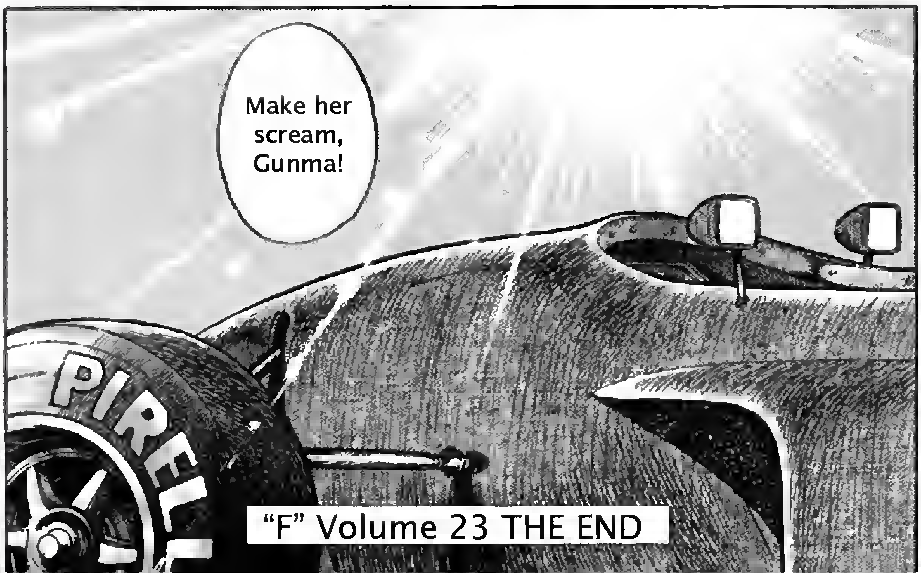



I figured, instead of getting all obsessive and calculating precise aerodynamics, it would suit you better this way...
I considered the balance between the engine and your personality. We decided to go with a conventional nose that's got size instead of a needle-nose (*) design...
Well... I'd be pressed for an answer if I were asked how exactly does this resemble a cock, but...

* A car frame with a pointed tip


Tomorrow. At Silver-stone.
...in this baby?
So when can I race...




Make her scream, Gunma!
PIRELL
"F" Volume 23 THE END

F VOL.23

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